

AUSTRALIAN

# DOGS



and pets

**Best Dog  
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Affectionate  
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**Pugs**  
& Shetland  
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## Hello and welcome to issue four of Australian Dogs and Pets magazine.

We are excited to bring you an insightful issue packed with breed profiles, tips, ideas and feature stories. Don't forget, we love hearing from our readers too, so get in touch and share your pet stories.

In this issue we have focused on dog behaviour and grooming, providing tips on curbing your dog's barking as well as advice on bathing your dog, especially for canines that aren't particularly fond of water.

Our feature on dog friendly parks and beaches highlights the best places to go exploring with your four-legged friend. If you visit any of them we would love to hear about your experience. We also detail some interesting statistics on pet ownership and behaviour, some of which is shocking (and funny!) and others, well not that surprising!

For those who enjoy a heartening story, you must read our feature on Storybook Farm, a little sanctuary caring for disabled animals.

Our regular breed profiles are back again, the first of which takes a look at one of Australia's most popular small dog breeds; the Pug. We were fortunate to have an expert on hand to provide an insightful look at the Pug, which like many breeds comes with its pros and cons. We also profile the beautiful Shetland Sheepdog, whose sweet personality and fluffy coat has won the hearts of many dog lovers. For cat lovers, we have a profile on leopard look-a-like, the Bengal. If you love pets of all species and sizes, we have an abundance of information on budgies, tropical fish and a more uncommon pet; turtle's.

Stay in the loop and discover the latest

items on the pet market with our shopping guide. We didn't want our human friends to miss out, so we have put together a guide on animal themed interior decorations to liven up your living spaces.

As always we would like to highlight the driving force behind this wonderful magazine; the unbreakable bond humans share with their pets and animals in general. Australian Dogs and Pets is a tribute to the companionship, affection and happiness that pets provide us.

It is always wonderful to hear from our readers so if you have any thoughts, stories or ideas please get in touch with us on [pets@wpco.com.au](mailto:pets@wpco.com.au). Happy reading!

*Danielle*

### Contact details for your letters and pics:

Email: [pets@wpco.com.au](mailto:pets@wpco.com.au) (Please make sure your pic is at least 400KB in size)

Mail: Australian Dogs and Pets, PO Box 8035, Glenmore Park, NSW, 2745.

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# Issue 4



## *Your Pets*

- 6** Readers' Stories – fabulous tribute from a dedicated reader

## *Breed Profiles*

- 8** Pugs – loving, fun and intelligent
- 28** Bengal cats – unique, beautiful and affectionate
- 70** Shetland Sheepdog – hardworking, sweet and loyal

## *Features*

- 14** Best dog parks and beaches – fun places to explore with your pooch
- 34** Australia – a nation of pet lover's! – Statistics on pet owners' behaviour
- 56** Storybook Farm – the beautiful animal sanctuary caring for disabled animals

## *Choose a Pet*

- 20** Tropical fish – beautiful and intriguing
- 38** Budgies – charming and clever
- 46** Turtles – endearing and quirky

## *Tips*

- 42** Interesting pet facts
- 53** Bathing your dog
- 76** Stop your dog from barking

## *Working Pets*

- 22** Police Dogs – specially trained canines assisting the police force with crucial and heroic duties







## ***We Care***

- 48** Foster Programs – temporary care for pets seeking a forever home

## ***My Pet***

- 62** Meet Pickles – an Australian Golden Retriever who inspired a best-selling novel

## ***Shows***

- 66** Pet events – upcoming pet events to visit and a re-cap of the Perth Pet Expo

## ***Book Review***

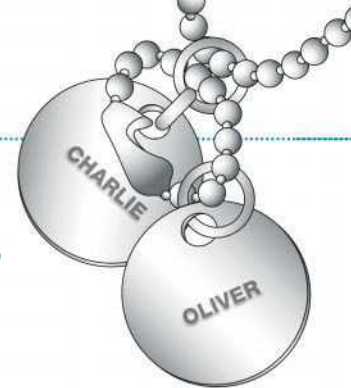
- 80** Book reviews  
**81** Giveaway

## ***Regulars***

- 3** Editor's Letter  
**37** Subscribe Now  
**44** Shopping Guide  
**78** Interior decorations  
**82** Next issue







# Readers' Stories

Gai Linklater shared this beautiful story with us  
— a tribute to her family dog Rusty who recently passed away....

## *A One In A Million Welcome Home*

After many years of night shift, no matter what challenges I faced during the darkest hours, nothing on earth could have prepared me for a 'one in a million welcome home.'

Every time I drove home, I always looked forward to my overwhelming and hearty canine 'welcome home.' I often had to brace myself for the upcoming sight of my over excited, X Terrier 'Rusty,' as he waited with baited breath, hovering behind the front door, to flatten me with his 'licks of life.' Being an undying dog lover, I only escalated his euphoric state by encouraging him with sheer delight, as I cherished every precious moment of our reckless rumpus.

However, one particular day presented a major change in our radiant reunion, as our front door was bolted shut to deny access, due to ongoing renovations. As I drove home in the pouring rain, I felt very privileged to push my new remote control, for internal entry through the garage to our old house, for the first memorable time. Although I was already drenched from walking to the staff car park, I considered this minute detail completely irrelevant.

I knew Rusty recognised the sound of our car, but despite this and the documented fact that dogs can smell a mile away, (or 160km) I half expected him to be waiting at the front door for our morning ritual. So I secretly snuck in, with wet socks to surprise him. Lo and behold, as I stuck my head round the corner, there he was, in all his glory, at the end of the hallway, in his exuberant style, behind the front door. He was eagerly panting, portraying his hilarious rendition of the hula, thumping his tail against the wall as he battered the bare, creaky floor boards. I could hardly wait for our ecstatic embrace, but had to force myself to soak up this pure and innocent vision, I had never seen before from the rear view. And I truly believed it was every bit as exhilarating as the front view (in



my bias opinion of course.)

With all the love in my heart and soul, I shrieked, "RUSTY!" which echoed all the way to his pricked up ears, as I braced myself once again. For a split second, Rusty froze and was stunned. All of a sudden, (like a flash of lightening) he catapulted towards my open arms as my focused eyes shed tears of joy. He took my breath away as he bolted full pelt, because all I could envisage was a blur of sooty tan and white fur emerging and becoming bigger and closer. In one almighty leap (that looked like he jumped out of his own skin) he lunged and

landed on my pounding chest, blatantly bowling me over and collapsing on top of me, with his soft, white paws clinging around my neck. Our piercing eyes met at such close range, we scared each other. Believe it or not—Rusty's canine tooth became firmly embedded between my front teeth, as I wriggled and squirmed in vain, like petrified prey at his mercy. Beyond my comprehension, I was absolutely flabbergasted to come to the mortifying conclusion, besides being in a ridiculous predicament, we were solidly stuck together (too close for comfort.) I





could only muster up a resounding whine of "Ah," as my back teeth rattled to increase the volume of my moans and groans from excruciating pain. I idly laid in his clutches, helplessly restrained and trapped beneath his full body weight of 20kg.

I actually amazed and amused myself at this crucial time in our precarious position, by suddenly remembering a scientific analysis a Vet told me once. He stated, "Animals have a much higher pain threshold than humans" which was a slight consolation at this poignant and profound point in time. Rusty proved this theory by wagging his tail from side to side against my trembling legs. In the midst of my agonising pain, I cringed feeling squeamish, considering my random and disturbing thoughts of this devastating disaster (to put it mildly.)

Finally, to my instant relief, my two daughters responded to Rusty's periodic howling through our gritted teeth and my weakling wails. Extraordinarily enough, as nothing Rusty ever did shocked them anymore, they were completely oblivious to my desperate pleas for help. Instead, they dismissed my distraught state and to my astonishment joined us rolling around on the floor, united in hysterical laughter. Although I had systematically trained them, as soon as they could talk and read to dial '000' for any emergency, (number clearly taped to phone) they did not seem to perceive this as a life threatening situation.

Thankfully in due time, my darling daughters realised this was no longer a laughing matter, so (like music to my ears) simultaneously yelled, "DAD! WAKE UP! DAD! HELP! DAD!" When I married this 'man of a few words,' I always imagined some day he would be my

unsung hero, but nothing was further from this failing assumption. He begrudgingly made his way down the rickety plank, which was a slippery dip for our kids, prior to a future stair case. No doubt he was dumbfounded, but managed a gallant giggle, before merely muttering, "It's a pity our camera is out of film or I'd take a photo."

Upon hearing 'helpful Harry's' words of wisdom, I jerkily heaved myself forward, while Rusty's wet nose squashed mine and I winced in intensified pain and despair. I felt Rusty's claws sinking deeper into my confined rib cage, as his welded body pressed harder onto my diaphragm, winding me breathless and gasping for air.

Miraculously, amongst this inconceivable, doggone dilemma, I could feel Rusty retreat and caught a glimpse of his pricked up ears, as we heard a faint noise. I sighed with enormous relief when I realised we had broken free.

Within sight, a chip off my tooth ricocheted across the room, bouncing over the slippery floor; while I slithered along to retrieve this significant remanent and grasped it safely, into my clenched fist. Meanwhile, Rusty took off (like a rocket) to retrieve his beloved frisbee and gripped it in his mouth, penetrating his perfectly intact teeth, till holes formed in a row. I was shaken and devastated, but couldn't help crack a smile at the sight of Rusty, anxiously waiting and begging me, with those big, brown eyes that melted my heart, to throw it and play (to no avail.) I was completely sapped of any energy and unwilling to attempt any such motor skills. I fully intended to recuperate and sleep the rest

of the day in bed, with Rusty by my side of course. I needed this day to recover and pluck up the courage to make a dentist appointment for the next day. I restlessly tossed and turned, trying to contemplate the unnerving idea of how on earth to explain this horrifying experience to my distinguished Dentist. Long before I had any inclination, I found myself counting fish in the tank in the waiting room, with definitely no desire to pick up an old 'dog eared' magazine. Before I had time to change my mind and take Rusty down the beach, Dr Jones broke the eerie silence by announcing my name and beckoning me to somehow sink and relax in the big, black chair. I carefully produced my pitiful piece of 'pearly white,' whilst he held out his gloved hand (like a school teacher confiscating something inappropriate.) Subsequently, I sheepishly confided my unrehearsed explanation. Dr Jones responded by throwing back his head and chuckling away, which certainly 'broke the ice.'

Following expensive dental surgery, I drove home dilapidated. I also made it abundantly clear to Rusty, on the other side of the front door, I had arrived home—armed with a big, juicy bone, I knew he could smell a mile away (or 160km.)

*As a tribute to our family dog, 'Rusty' (R.I.P.)*

*By Gai Linklater*

*"If you can love a dog at first glance, follow your heart and give him a chance."*

*"Deep in our hearts he will always be loved and cherished in our memory." ✿*



# Pugs

Pugs – a high maintenance yet loving, fun and intelligent dog!

The popularity of pet pugs is on the rise, with many dog lovers drawn to the pug for their adorable, loving and highly affectionate characteristics. Although pugs have some wonderful qualities that many find appealing, like most dog breeds, the pug does have its cons that need serious consideration before making a commitment. We spoke to Belinda Goyarts, a registered pug breeder and Operator of Pugs SOS, a nationwide rescue organisation keeping pugs out of puppy farms. Belinda provided us with insightful information about owning a pug to prepare those who are interested in the breed and would like to know more.

Belinda describes pugs as 'joyful enthusiasm bundled into an energetic body'.

Pugs are full of energy, love of life, keen to explore every single thing around them and are curious to know what is happening every second of the day. As with many dog breeds, the pug is extremely energetic and will not slow down until they reach their senior years (around 10-11 years of age).

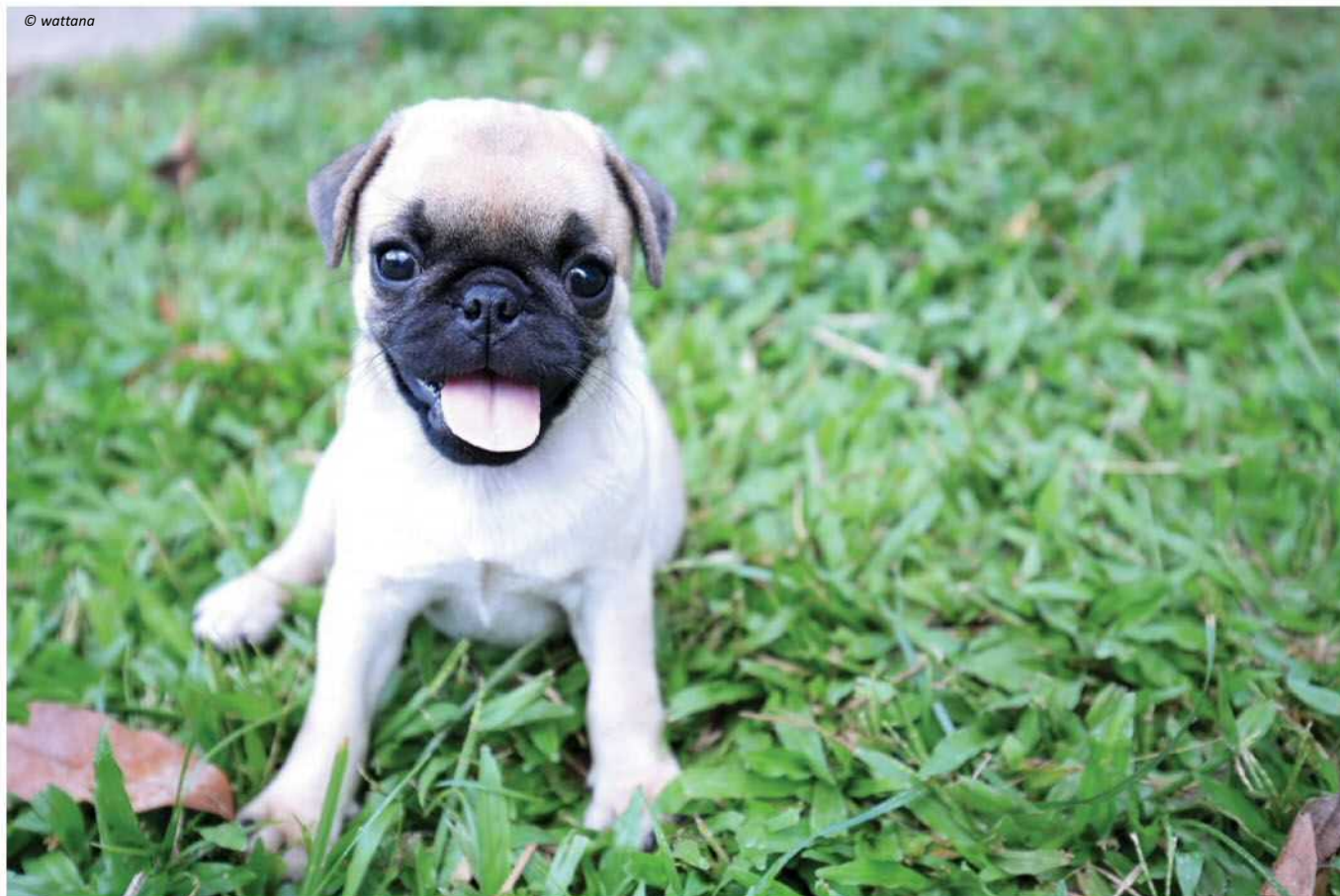
## History of the pug

According to the London Zoological Society, the pug is one of the oldest dog breeds in the world. Ancient Chinese documents state that short nose dogs with the description matching that of the pug existed in China around 700BC. The spread of the pug is said to have happened when the Dutch discovered China and started

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trade, the sailors smuggled pugs out and took them home to Europe where they became popular due to their small size and reputation as companions to the upper classes and nobility.

Pugs remained popular through the 18th century, but slipped in popularity in the early 19th century. After 1860, a new wave of pugs were imported from China with shorter legs and the now familiar 'pug nose'. Pugs only made it to America shortly after the American Civil War.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor were probably the most famous pug fanciers in the 20th century. They took their pugs with them to almost all social events. Pugs became popular in the United States in the 20th century both as pets and show dogs. In the mid-20th century, pugs again seemed to lose popularity before making a comeback in the 1990's after the breed was featured in popular Hollywood movies (ref: Pug World).



© Utekhina Anna

## Fact file

**Breed:** Pug

**General appearance:** The pug's appearance is characterised by their flat, wrinkled faces, compact muscular bodies and curled tails

**Lifespan:** Pugs can live up until 15-20 years of age

**Temperament:** Charming, energetic, sociable, affectionate and intelligent

**Size:** Pugs are around 25-35cm tall and weigh between 10-12kgs

**Coat:** Pugs have a thick coat that comes in four colour variations; fawn, apricot, black and the very rare silver

**Suitability:** Pugs suit households where they can live inside, receive plenty of attention and are not left alone for hours at a time. They are high maintenance dogs so the ideal owner must have time on their hands to keep up with general care and tend to any health issues. This is also not a breed for anyone with a restricted budget, as caring for a pug can be costly.



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### Health issues

Although owning a pug can be very rewarding for the right person, the breed does have a high risk factor and it is possible that your pug could develop a range of serious health issues. The pug is a Brachycephalic breed, meaning it has a short and broad skull. Pugs usually have serious breathing problems as a direct result of their exaggerated, flat face. Breathing problems commonly occur early on, usually in the first year, and are the direct result of breeders deliberately breeding pugs to have an extreme head shape.

The most common health issues experienced by pugs include:

- Serious breathing difficulties
- High blood pressure
- Fainting or collapsing due to a lack of oxygen
- Facial skin fold infections
- Serious eye problems
- Difficulty walking from patellas and spine issues

Belinda provided us with detailed information on these health issues, as well as solutions for each of the problems. Although many of these issues are not an easy fix, there are preventative measures that can be taken to avoid unnecessary damage and potentially fatal outcomes.

### Brachycephalic Airway Obstruction Syndrome (BAOS)

Dogs like pugs have a reduced skull length, but the amount of soft tissue in their airways is not reduced, resulting in the same amount of tissue being squeezed into a smaller bone area. This tissue obstructs airflow and causes major welfare problems. Dogs with BAOS usually have small and narrow nostril openings so it's very hard

to get enough oxygen in and this is made worse by extra tissue that hangs down into their airways, which further obstructs normal airflow. Breathing issues are common in dogs, with most pugs showing signs at one to four years of age. Surgical procedures can be performed to try to help dogs be more comfortable, however this surgery is expensive. Constantly gasping for air is distressing, frightening and uncomfortable for dogs and could be likened to having an asthma attack. Dogs with BAOS are typically unable to take even moderate amounts of exercise, have disrupted sleep and are very prone to potentially fatal heat stroke.

**Solution:** Watch out for signs of breathing difficulties and consult your vet if you believe your pug is suffering from any problems, no matter how minor they may seem. It might be necessary to undertake surgery to avoid further damage.

## Caring for your Pug

- **Grooming** – Due to the pugs thick coat that sheds every day of the year, they require an extensive amount of grooming. A daily brush is recommended to keep stray hair at bay. If you are intensely houseproud, wear black, have dark furniture or are allergic to hair, you might want to reconsider a pug. Belinda suggests purchasing a Zoom Groom, a sticky soft rubber brush that pulls away loose hair. Pugs also need their nose rolls cleaned with a warm face washer each day, ears cleaned twice a week, eyes checked carefully daily and their anal glands expressed once a month. If the eyes are wide, clear and looking at you steadily, you are generally assured that all is well. If they look up at you and they are blinking an eye, it is weeping or swollen, you can assume an ulcer has started forming. Pugs nails also grow at a tremendous rate and need to be clipped or filled every two weeks to avoid them growing into the pads underneath.
- **Feeding** – Pugs have a voracious appetite for food and life in general. The more exercise they get, the more they can eat. It is recommended that you feed your pug twice a day as it keeps the blood sugar levels balanced.
- **Exercise** – You should aim to walk your pug twice a day, in the cool of the morning and in the evening. Off lead is best so they can have a sprint around to get rid of energy, slow down to catch their breath and race around again when ready.



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## Eye problems

The pugs extreme head shape means that they are prone to several eye conditions that tend to lead to chronic irritation and pain. This is because the flatter the face, the shallower the eye socket and the more prominent the eye. Prominent bulging eyes are at greater risk of injury due to the inability to completely close over the eyeball, leading to dry eyes and ulcers. These problems are very painful and can lead to blindness. In Australia, we have very hot summers with high winds resulting in dry conditions, dust and unrelenting heat. Pugs face an uphill battle as soon as summer starts. Due to the pugs large eye surface, they can easily get dust and debris stuck on the surface, resulting in scratches and painful ulcers very easily.

**Solution:** If your pug develops over exposure of the cornea (eye surface), they will require a procedure which involves suturing closed the corner of the eyelid. Further to this surgery, they will need Tacrolimus drops twice daily for the remainder of their life.

It is also possible that your pug can develop corneal perforations with iris prolapse. If this occurs, your pug will need surgery along with ongoing medication. It is essential you act quickly as a corneal perforation with iris prolapse can occur within 8 to 24 hours of an ulcer forming.

If your pug has black eyes, this can be a result of pigment spreading across the cornea which will lead to complete loss of vision if not treated. If you notice this type of change in

your pug's eyes, consult a vet immediately.

Should you have specific concerns about your pug's eyes, you are welcome to contact Animal Eye Care in Malvern, Victoria on 03 9563 6488 to discuss any queries you might have.

## Spinal and skin issues

Pugs commonly have deformities of the bones of the spine. These can lead to pressure on the spinal cord resulting in progressive pain and loss of back leg function. Additionally, pugs often develop

skin problems as a result of excessive skin folds on their face and serious trouble giving birth, usually requiring caesarean. This occurs because the abnormally large heads of the puppies cannot pass through the mother's narrow pelvic canal.

**Solution:** If you notice your pug is acting unusual or seems to be in any kind of pain, consult your vet immediately. It is essential you also de-sex your pug. Pregnancy and birth can be extremely complicated for pugs and any owner who genuinely cares about the welfare of their



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dog would not want to put them through this. If you would like another puppy, purchase from a registered breeder.

#### Overheating issues

Pugs have a thick double coat that is present all year round. This means pugs shed a substantial amount of fur, with many owners wanting to leave their pug outside as to avoid fur inside the house. When left outside with their thick coats,

pugs can easily overheat. Further to this, the breed has a short face with a very wide throat area. This can be so wide that at times the roof at the back of the mouth collapses, making it extremely difficult to take in air and cool off. Around 70% of all pugs require soft palate reduction surgery at some point in their lifetime.

**Solution:** Ensure that your pug has access to the inside of your house at all times. On particularly hot days, consider leaving the air conditioner on.

#### Separation anxiety

Pugs were bred in China to be companion dogs. Similar to the way border collies and kelpies are bred to round up sheep and cattle, pugs were bred with a strong 'working' drive to be with people all day. It would be unkind to purchase a border collie if you lived in an apartment and did not give them sufficient exercise. Likewise, it would be cruel to purchase a pug if you are rarely home and they are left unattended for most of the day on their own.

**Solution:** If you have to work long hours and are away from home for most of the day, we recommend leaving your pug with a friend or family member or buying two pugs of the same age so they have a companion. A pug will settle much more quickly and be more content if they have a friend. You can consider asking the breeder to reduce their rate so that you can buy two puppies at the same time.

Those who love their dogs and only want the best for the welfare of their pets will understand the strict requirements of the breed and will only be willing to take on ownership of a pug when their lifestyle permits the best care possible.

#### Pros of owning a pug

Despite the negatives, the breed has some exceptional qualities that make owning a pug worthwhile. These characteristics include:

- Charming and docile



© Aseph



## Contacts:

If there is anything else you would like to know about pugs or if you are interested in owning a pug, Belinda is a registered breeder and is more than happy to answer your questions: [raevon@netspace.net.au](mailto:raevon@netspace.net.au)

If you are interested in rescuing a pug, visit the Pugs SOS website:  
<http://www.pugs-sos.com/>

For a list of registered breeders visit:  
Dogs NSW  
<http://www.dogsnsw.org.au/puppies/breeders-directory/category/pug.html>

Dogs VIC  
<http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au/DogsPuppies/BuyingAPuppy/Breedersdirectory/Puppies.aspx?BreedID=154>

Dogs QLD  
<http://www.dogsqueensland.org.au/Breeder/Detail/31>

Dogs West (WA)  
[http://www.dogswest.com/dogswest/Breeders\\_Search.htm](http://www.dogswest.com/dogswest/Breeders_Search.htm)

Dogs SA  
<http://www.dogssa.com.au/?breed=pug>

Dogs TAS  
<http://www.tasdogs.com/breeders.htm>

- Family friendly
- Sociable
- Intelligent
- Loyal
- Unique appearance
- Affectionate and loves cuddles

If you feel that you can offer a pug a great home, whereby they are able to live inside, receive plenty of attention and you have budgeted for the potentially costly vet bills, than pugs are highly recommended. They have a fun, loving and intelligent nature and adore children, family, food, playing, walks in the park or on the beach and sleeping as close to you on the bed as possible. If you want a dog that will never leave your side, will literally sit on you any chance they get and are always up for cuddles, than a pug might just be the perfect breed for you. For those who like their personal space, you might want to reconsider a pug in favour of a more independent breed.

In Belinda's opinion, the best thing about owning a pug is the imprint they leave. Whether you've had your pug since a puppy, a few years old or as a senior, after an hour in your home, they are yours. It is amazing to watch the love a pug can give. They have a huge sense of humour, are exceptionally intelligent and no one is ever lonely when in their company.

### Choosing a breeder

Due to the pugs gorgeous face, adorable personality and popularity on television, movies and novelty items, the breed is in high demand. This has made the selling of pug puppies an extremely lucrative cash business for commercial operators, or as

they are commonly known, puppy farms. To avoid accidentally supporting this horrible industry and to ensure the health of your puppy, only ever purchase a dog from a responsible registered breeder. To find a reputable breeder contact the relevant dog organisation in your state, who will be able to refer you to registered breeders.

Once you have contacted a breeder, they will provide you with the opportunity to view the puppies in their home. By going to visit the puppies in their environment you can meet the breeder, see other adult pugs and relations to the babies, see the area the babies are kept in and generally get a feel for the breeder. Reputable breeders may also require you to go on a waiting list until the next litter of pugs arrive. As a responsible breeder, they will not necessarily have puppies ready at your disposal. Potential owners must be prepared to wait for their puppy. Additionally, reputable breeders will generally charge more for puppies compared to backyard breeders, pet shops and puppy farms. Do not let this deter you, in fact you can almost guarantee a healthier, happier puppy if you purchase from a registered breeder as opposed to any other seller. You can generally tell if a breeder is a puppy farm operator if they ask to meet in a car park, do not provide a residential address and cannot be contacted again in the future.

It is recommended that you get pet insurance soon after purchasing your pug. This is the best way to avoid extremely costly bills should your pug develop health issues. 🌟

© Erik Lam



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# Best dog parks and beaches around Australia

Pet owners need not look further for the perfect pet hangout spot, as we present Australia's friendliest dog parks and beaches.

## New South Wales

### Centennial Park

Robertson Road, Randwick 2021

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✗

Reason to visit: With over 158 hectares for off-leash adventures, Centennial Park is the perfect area for you and your pooch to explore unrestricted.

### Rowland Reserve

Pittwater Road, Bayview 2104

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: With plenty of off-leash areas as well as access to the water, your dog will love the chance to go for a quick dip after all that running around!

### Connie Lowe Reserve

Adelphi Street, Rouse Hill 2155

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: With a children's playground next door and barbecue facilities, this park makes a great family day out.

### North Shelly Beach

Shelly Beach Road, Shelly Beach 2261

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: Your dog can run off-leash on the sand and enjoy paddling the water.



### Blenheim Park

Blenheim Road, North Ryde 2113

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: Facilities such as barbecues and picnic shelters means the whole family can come out to play!

### Dan Mahoney Reserve

Gladstone Street, North Parramatta 2151

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: A favourite amongst pet owners in the area, the park is frequented by friendly faces and is a wonderful way for you and your pooch to socialise.





## South Australia

### Don't forget....

Don't forget to take treats and a water bottle for your pooch. Although most parks will have taps, it is always best to have a backup source of water to keep your dog hydrated.

Make sure you have plenty of plastic bags to clean up after your dog. Ensure that you pick up your dog's droppings as a courtesy to those who use the park.

Before taking your dog to an off-leash dog park, it is always best to check their behaviour and ensure they can be trusted around other dogs. If your pooch isn't very social or can be difficult when they see another dog, they may not be ready to play in this type of environment. You can always get them used to other dogs by letting them play with a family member or friend's dog first. If they show any sign of aggression, separate them immediately. A dog park is not the ideal place for a dog that lacks obedience, is unfriendly or overly shy. To keep your dog and those around you safe, make sure they are ready before venturing into an off-leash area.

#### The Wright Road Dog Friendly Park

Wright Road, Stirling 5152

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: The park is the only off-leash, fenced off dog park in the Adelaide Hills. The fenced off area runs over two acres and includes a stream, as well as separate areas for small dogs or puppies.

#### Ngampa Yerta Park

Medindie Road, North Adelaide 5006

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✗

Reason to visit: The park consists of two large fenced off areas – one designated for adult and large dogs and one specifically for dogs under six months old or weighing less than 14kg.

#### The Paddocks Dog Park

Maxwell Road, Para Hills West 5096

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: The park has plenty of trees and fauna for your dog to explore. Outside of the park you can find a number of walking trails through the scrub to wetlands if you want to explore further.

#### The Pooch Park

Flinders Road, Findon 5023

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

#### Hazelmere Road Reserve

Cnr Hazelmere and Oaklands Road,

Glengowrie 5044

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: This is a large park that is very popular with dog owners. This makes it a great place to see (and interact with, if your dog is friendly!) many different breeds in one spot.

#### Four Paws Park (inside Denis Morrissey Park)

Cnr Montacute and St Bernards Roads,

Hectorville 5073

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: You can make your visit a family day by utilising the parks amenities including sheltered area with a table and plenty of benches for a picnic.

Reason to visit: The specialty dog park is equipped with a variety of dog exercise equipment, a dog drinking fountain and benches for seating.





## Western Australia

### C Y O'Connor Reserve

McTaggart Cove, North Coogee 6163

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: The long dog beach has safe, calm water protected by Garden Island which lies parallel to the coast of Fremantle.

### Peasholm Dog Beach

West Coast Highway, Scarborough 6019

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: This popular dog beach has no rocks, making it safe to swim in calm conditions. Also watch out for the occasional dog washing service that sets up in the carpark!

### Mosman-Leighton Beach

Bvd North, Fremantle 6159

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: This is one of Perth's more peaceful, uncrowded beaches – perfect for swimming, walking and playing with your dog.

### Whiteman Park Dog Park

Lord Street, Whiteman 6068

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: The dog exercise area is fully fenced, has obstacles, water troughs and lots of shade and seating.



### Riverside Gardens Bayswater

Milne Street, Bayswater 6053

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: This park offers everything you need in a dog exercise area including river frontage and a small beach for swimmers.



# Parks & Beaches

## Victoria

### You Yangs Regional Park

Branch Road, Little River 3211

Off-leash area ✗

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: You Yangs is a fantastic park for bush walking and is well-known for its spectacular views and birdlife.

### Bunurong Coastal Drive

Inverloch-Cape Paterson Road, Inverloch 3995

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: You can explore the sandy coves and rocky headlands with your dog, alongside one of Victoria's most stunning coastlines.

### Jells Park

Waverley Road, Wheelers Hill 3150

Off-leash area ✗

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: This park has nine kilometres of paths and trails and plenty of open space to explore in a beautiful natural setting.

### Cape Conran Coastal Park

Marlo-Conran Road, Conran 3888

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: The park features wild ocean, beaches, estuaries and inlets, heathlands and banksia woodlands. Best of all camping with dogs is also allowed in certain areas of the park.

### Princes Park

Bambra Road, Caulfield South 3162

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: Princes Park has a fenced football oval for those who are nervous about their dogs wondering too far. There is also an unfenced off-leash area for pooches that can be trusted.

### Clayton Reserve

Macaulay Road, North Melbourne 3051

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: The perfect park for inner-city canines, your dog can make use of the fenced-off dog area, which includes a water fountain and doggy dish.

## Queensland

### Gooseponds Dog Park

Willis Street, North Mackay 4740

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: Gooseponds offers a combination of walking tracks set around a large wetland lagoon. There is a designated off-leash area for the pooches and exercise equipment for humans to enjoy.

### Colmslie Recreation Reserve

Morningside 4170

Off-leash area

Free parking



Reason to visit: Dogs can run and play in the spacious park with agility equipment and should they need to cool off, they can take a dip in the nearby river.

### Schuster Park

Tallebudgera 4228

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: Schuster Park is one of the best in the area, featuring vast off-leash areas with grassy fields and a saltwater creek. There is also a small on-leash beach complete with picnic area, BBQ and playground.

### Aquatic Paradise Park

Birkdale 4159

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: Aquatic Paradise is a unique non-enclosed sea front expanse for dogs, which can be equal fun for humans with plenty of walking tracks and a playground for the kids.

### Doggy Beach

Hastings Street, Noosa Heads 4567

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓



Reason to visit: This picturesque off-leash dog beach features a large crescent of white sand with a backdrop of distant volcanic mountains.

### Wurtulla Currimundu Dog Beach

Buderim Street, Wurtulla 4551

Off-leash area ✓

Free parking ✓

Reason to visit: This secluded dog beach is a little slice of heaven, with its wide stretch of sand, dunes and stunning surf interspersed with rocky inlets. The beach is off-leash between 4pm-8pm daily.





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# Tropical Fish

Beautiful and intriguing!

**M**aintaining an aquarium full of tropical fish can be a rewarding and enjoyable hobby. Not only will you find a new found love for caring for these creatures, your aquarium also provides a beautiful focal point that livens

up any space. If you choose your species carefully, tropical fish can make great pets and suit almost any household!

If you have never owned fish before, we recommend starting off with river fish for your first aquarium set up. They are the

easiest to keep healthy in a small body of water and can handle fluctuations in acidity and temperature better than other species.

## Setting up your aquarium

It is best to set up your aquarium before you begin choosing fish. Although there are quite a few elements to consider when setting up, once you have this part out of the way maintenance and care shouldn't be too difficult. Your local aquarium will be able to assist you with selecting the right equipment but in a nutshell, here is a list of essential needs:

- Tank and canopy with light
- Gravel
- Water filter
- Water pump (if this does not come with





your filter)

- Water heater with thermometer
- Ornaments and accessories for your fish to hide behind
- Food
- Cycling fluid to initially set up the essential bacteria needed
- Water conditioning fluid to remove any chlorine and chloramines found in tap water
- Fish net
- Siphon and hose

### Choosing your fish

The most important thing to consider when choosing your fish is their compatibility with one another. When you visit your local fish store, it is essential you check that the fish you are interested in suit their tank mates. You must also evaluate the care requirements and behavioural characteristics of each species. This includes:

**Health:** Look for obvious signs of illness before purchasing your fish. Warning signs that a fish is unhealthy include white spots or velvety patches, torn or incomplete fins, missing scales, bulging eyes that are not a characteristic of the specie, lesions, rapid breathing, shaking and erratic swimming. If there is one diseased fish you can assume that this infection may have passed onto other fish in the same tank.

**Size:** Do your research! A fish that is small now might not stay that size for long. Make sure any fish you buy won't ultimately outgrow your aquarium and their tank mates. Bigger fish are prone to eating little fish so this could be an unfortunate match in the long term. If one fish is small enough to fit in another's mouth you can assume it will disappear soon enough.

**Temperament:** Fish vary in their aggressiveness toward members of their own species as well as toward members of other species. Some may have a carefree outlook, getting along fine with other peaceful tankmates. On the other hand some species may constantly be looking for a fight. It is extremely important to research the nature of each type of fish to ensure a peaceful aquarium.

#### Did you know...

Fish will only gasp at the surface if they are suffocating because of poor oxygenation, parasites, damage to their gills and other health issues.



**Captive or wild:** As always it is best to purchase captive-bred fishes over wild-caught specimens. Some of the more popular marine species including clownfish, dottybacks, basslets, gobies, blennies and seahorses are currently being bred in captivity. Although captive bred cost slightly more than wild-caught, their superior survival rate and ease of feeding is well worth the extra cash.

### Caring for your aquarium

For your aquarium to be a success you must commit to the proper care and maintenance your fish require. It is a good idea to establish a maintenance routine by setting up a schedule to make sure you don't forget to take care of anything and to give yourself the opportunity to catch any problems early on.

**Water changes:** Performing regular water changes is one of the best ways to keep your aquarium up and running. Most experts recommend changing about 10% of the water every two weeks. One-step salt mixes are available from most pet and

fish stores, making it easy and inexpensive to perform water changes. To change the water, disconnect all power, remove and clean the cover glass, siphon at least 10% of the water out and rinse any filter media.

**Daily maintenance:** Every day you should check the water temperature and adjust when necessary. Check that all equipment is running correctly, clean 'salt creep', remove uneaten food and check your fish for signs of illness or distress.

**Weekly maintenance:** Once a week you should test the water for ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. You should also rinse prefilters to remove clogs of uneaten food or debris. Scraping algae from the front pane of the aquarium should also be a weekly task.

**Fortnightly maintenance:** Perform the 10% water change every two weeks. At the same time you can vacuum the substrate. A few days before or after completing the water change, you should remove or replace any mechanical filtration media. Clean the cover glass at this time, removing salt build up, calcium deposits and dirt. ✨



# Police Dogs

Police Dogs are specially trained canines that provide valuable assistance to the police force and hold a significant role in protecting and serving the community.

**P**olice Dogs are responsible for helping police search for drugs, explosives, people, blood, cadaver and property, and also assist in protecting police and the community during violent confrontations.

They also have the heroic duty of protecting their handlers in dangerous or uncertain situations. One such operating dog unit in Australia is the NSW Police Force

Dog Unit, which utilises trained dogs to provide a support service for police in New South Wales. The Unit uses various breeds including German Shepherds, Labradors, Malinois and the English

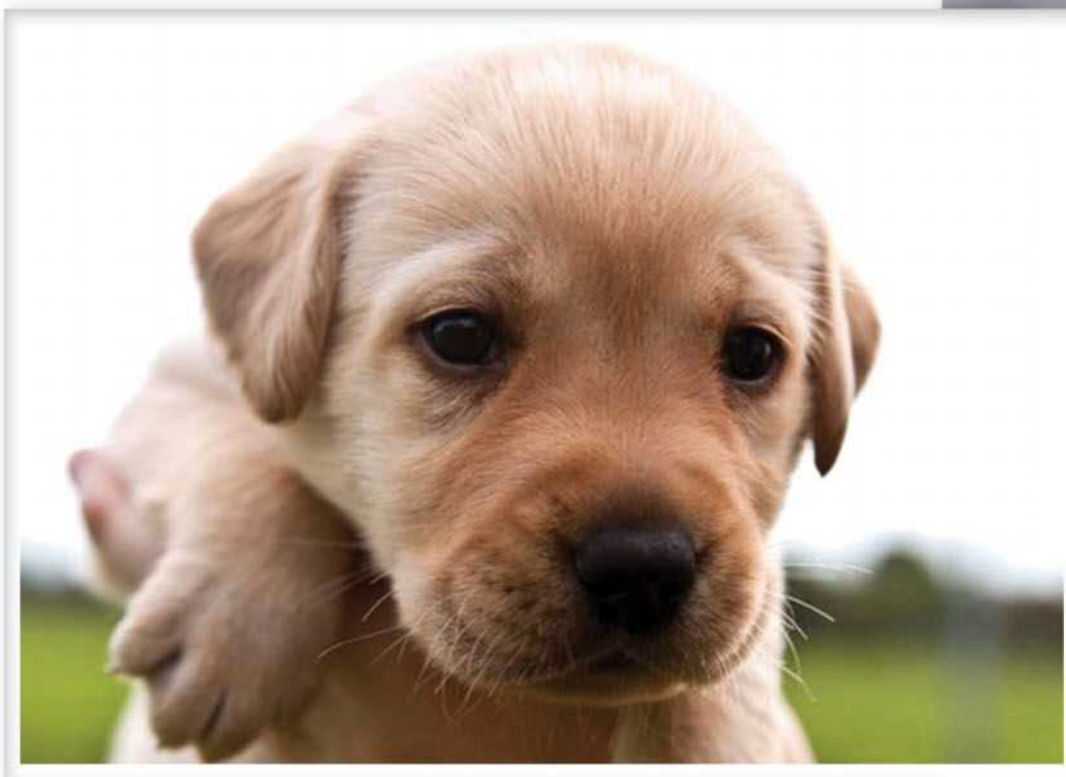
Springer Spaniels. NSW Police Force Dogs are renowned for their work and are amongst the best trained police dogs in the world!

***"The Unit uses various breeds including German Shepherds, Labradors, Malinois and the English Springer Spaniels."***

## **A History of the NSW Police Dog Unit**

The Dog Unit was first formed in 1932 under Constable Scotty Denholm and resulted in the successful deployment of historically

renowned Police Dogs such as Tess, Zoe, Sourì and a bloodhound called Disraeli. All these dogs worked for the State of New South Wales, becoming invaluable crime fighting tools.







Working dogs ...



The NSW Police Force decided to implement Police Dogs after a sensational hunt for a murderer. The manhunt became extremely labour-intensive with many twists and turns. After the criminal's eventual arrest, the circumstance of the manhunt was reviewed. During this review, the observation was made that the use of trained tracking dogs would have dramatically shortened the man hunt.

The first NSW Police Force kennels were located in Alexandria, Sydney in the 1930's. The kennel area doubled as a holding yard for exhibits. At the time, the NSW Police Force Commissioner thought dogs could guard the exhibits in their downtime after training. In 1954, the Unit was disbanded for a short period of time before re-commencing modern day operations in 1979. During these latter years, the Dog Unit has changed structure a number of times, alternating from central command to

four separate regions before it was centralised once again at Menai, Sydney in 1997.

Over the last decade, the Dog Unit has evolved, diversifying into areas including firearm/explosive, drug detection, blood detection, cadaver detection and general purpose work. Furthermore, the Dog Unit continues to advance as crime trends evolve. This work has seen the Unit deploy Labradors as well as the standard German Shepherds and English Springer Spaniels. Due to the current world climate in relation to terrorism and related attacks, emphasis globally is now being placed on K9 explosive detection work. In order to keep up with this trend, the New South Wales Police Dog Unit has grown to assist in securing the State of New South Wales.

#### The life of a Police Dog

The NSW Police Force has 45 general purpose Police Dogs and about 50 detection

dogs, each with a specific capability across drug detection, explosive detection, blood detection or cadaver (human remains) detection. There are dogs located across NSW in many regional areas, as well as dogs that cover the greater metropolitan Sydney area. The Dog Unit is based at Menai in Southern Sydney.

The role of a Police Dog is not an easy task and prior to working with the police, the dogs undertake rigorous training. Dogs are selected based on their potential and must exhibit specific characteristics including a high drive, good temperament and focus for the particular range of tasks they are to perform. All dogs trained and developed must meet the required standards with their appointed handler to be accredited to work as a Police Dog. The training undertaken by each of the dogs is based around conditioning. The dogs are taught to associate required behaviour with rewards such as food, play and handler interaction. All dogs are trained to locate target odour, with the odour type varying dependent upon which discipline the dog is trained for. General purpose dogs are trained to detect human scent; drug detection dogs detect the odours of prohibited drugs; explosives detection dogs detect the odours of various explosives; blood detection dogs detect human blood and cadaver detection dogs detect human remains. Furthermore, the Dog Unit trains their dogs across all disciplines to



## Role of the NSW Dog Unit

### General purpose

General purpose teams are highly skilled and motivated. The general purpose police dog has a keen sense of smell, which is used to track and search for missing persons, suspected offenders or property connected to crime scenes. The locations covered by the team include buildings, thick bush, rural and suburban areas. The general purpose dog teams also support police at High Risk confrontations such as Crowd Control and Tactical Deployments.

### Drug Detection

Drug detection teams, using the dog's acute nose, are deployed for search houses, cars, people and personal property for the detection of illegal drugs. The teams primarily use Labradors and English Springer Spaniels who offer a high degree of accuracy during search warrants and screening situations.

### Explosives Detection

An Explosive team will use the dog's keen sense of smell to sniff out and locate bombs, explosive materials and firearms. Being Labradors and English Springer Spaniels, their inquisitiveness drives them to locate items. The work of Explosive teams are of great value to the community and the capability of NSW Police Force to deter crime.





ensure they are able to operate effectively in any type of environment.

Once a dog has passed their training and commences duty with the Dog Unit, they work with the handler in which they have been accredited with. On occasion, a dog may be teamed with a different handler for a variety of reasons, but generally once accredited the dog stays with their primary handler. Some dog handlers are even teamed with two canines of different capabilities and work both dogs. Dogs within the Police Dog Unit live permanently with their handlers; however they can also be intermittently housed at the Dog Unit when their handlers go on leave. Once a Police Dog reaches the end of their career, they retire to live with their police handler as a family pet. If that's not possible, the dog is re-homed, generally with another officer and their family.


'Like' the NSW Police Force Dog Unit on Facebook to keep up to date with these wonderful canines - <https://www.facebook.com/NSWPFDogUnit>



The Dog Unit is currently reviewing its puppy raising program, if you are interested in assisting please contact the Police Dog Unit 02 9541 9744.




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# Bengal Cats

The unusual yet beautiful Bengal doesn't look like your average domestic cat, appearing as if they belong in the jungle more so than a household pet.

**A** cross between a domestic queen and the wild Asian leopard cat, the Bengal is a truly unique domestic cat that closely resembles their wild ancestors. We spoke to Bengals Australia who provided us with information on this intriguing breed.

## A wild background

Despite the breed's primitive background, the Bengal makes a rewarding pet for those

who have the patience and understanding to care for their active and demanding nature. Any misconceptions about the Bengal inheriting their leopard ancestor's wild personality are quickly dismissed as the breed surprisingly expresses a loving and friendly nature equal to many other domestic cat breeds. Bengals do however inherit some characteristics from their wild ancestors besides their physical appearance.

The Asian leopard cat is an agile climbing cat and so are Bengals. They are also incredibly active and athletic and are not the cat for you if you want a placid pet. All potential owners should be warned that Bengals are strong, lively cats that do not outgrow their playful nature.

A characteristic of the Bengal that may surprise you is their love for water, a trait which is highly uncommon amongst most

## Fact file

**Breed:** Bengal

**Appearance:** The Bengal is a medium to large cat with a long muscular body and robust bones

**Temperament:** Extremely intelligent, curious, active, friendly and social

**Life span:** On average 12-16 years

**Weight:** Males weigh on average between 4.5-6.8kg and females 3.6-5.4kg

**Coat:** The coat is thick, beautifully sleek and soft. The belly is white and should also have spots. Coat types include spotted, marbled and glitter

**Colours:** The breed goes through many stages before they develop their true colour, reaching full rich colour at 12 to 16 months. The Bengals base coat is either white or brown

**Suitability:** The breed is recommended for more 'experienced' cat owners. The Bengals character does not make them ideal pets for someone who wants a quiet, low key companion. They do however make amazing pets for people wanting a more dog-like member of the family

Adya





Ermolaev Alexander



domestic cat breeds. Bengals are also a talkative breed, often letting their owners know how they are feeling with their distinct raspy voices. Another feature that many find unique is the Bengals occasional habit of eating their food with their front paws. These adorable qualities make the Bengal a favourite breed amongst cat enthusiasts. They are also extremely intelligent, easy to train and take well to using a litter box. The Bengals friendly nature suits many types of households, including those with children and other animals, as long as the owners can appreciate their playful side.

## Appearance

Although the basic aim of the Bengal cat is to mimic the appearance of the Asian leopard cat, Bengals do however come in a variety of colours and patterns. There are three main types of Bengals including spots with a very slight arrowhead shape, two-tone arrowhead rosettes and full rosettes. The most common patterns are spotted or marbled with either brown or white as the background colour. In spotted coats, the spots are dark and clear and either solid, arrow shapes or rosette. The marbled coat consists of contrasting horizontal swirls along the side of the cat. A rare coat type is the 'glitter' coat, a recessive and highly desirable coat that looks as if a handful of gold has been sprinkled over the coat.

## Choosing a Bengal

Potential owners will benefit from spending time with a Bengal before committing to one. The activity level of the breed is extremely high and it

Africa Studio



Utekhina Anna



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is important to realise that they won't want to spend much time being held and cuddled. They also require consistent maintenance in this regard, meaning they need access to a scratching post and plenty of toys to hunt, stalk and play with. They enjoy being up high and owners should also provide some climbing trees and perches for their cat to play on. This will save your furniture and curtains! You'll often find that Bengals love to carry their toys around in their mouths and enjoy a good game of fetch.

As a cautionary note, it is important to never leave the toilet seat up in case your Bengal gets bleach poisoning. You should also beware not to leave the bath unattended when running hot water in case your Bengal scalds himself.

When it comes to finding a suitable kitten, always approach a reputable breeder such as Bengals Australia. All cat breeds risk developing behavioural issues if they are not well socialised from a young age and this risk is increased if you purchase a kitten from a backyard breeder or pet shop. If you have any questions



# Bengal Cats

Africa Studio



Olga Ovcharenko



regarding the Bengal, contact Bengals Australia who have a wealth of experience raising and breeding Bengal cats and will be more than happy to help you with your enquiry.

## History of the breed

Bengal cats were created by the hybridisation of the wild Asian leopard cat with domestic cats to produce a beautiful, exotic appearing feline with dependable domestic temperament. The primary breed of domestic cat used in

breeding can range from the Egyptian Mau, the Ocicat, the Abyssinian, the Bombay and the British Blue. The Amur Cat and the Prionailurus have been the most often used subspecies of the Asian leopard cat. Most come from zoos or other captive breeding programs and have not been caught in the wild. As the Bengal is created from two difference species, early generation males are sterile. Female hybrids are bred back to domestic males to continue the development of

the breed.

The first official recognition of the breed can be traced back to 1983 when Mrs Jean Mill registered the first hybrid cat with The International Cat Association (TICA). In the years that followed, the hybrid breed was exhibited in many American cat shows.

## Future of the breed

Presently there are some Bengal fanciers who feel that the Asian leopard cat is no longer needed in the Bengal breeding

Olga Ovcharenko



Martin Carlsson



Bengals Australia



Utekhina Anna



programs. On the other hand, there are breeders who feel that the continued infusion of new genetic material is beneficial to the breed and should be continued in a responsible manner. The

goal of the breeds development should be to, as closely as possible, replicate the conformation and patterns of the wild forest-dwelling cat ancestors, instead of just being another spotted domestic cat.

#### Contacts

*Bengals Australia*  
*Chris Winchester*  
[www.bengalsaustralia.com.au](http://www.bengalsaustralia.com.au)  
(03) 5978 6962 🐾

Valentina Razumova





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# *Australia – a nation of pet lovers!*

It is a well-known fact that Australian's love their pets.

**A**s a country we have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. Around 63% of households own a pet and there is an estimated 33 million pets Australia-wide. Dogs are the most common pet, with 39% of households owning a dog and 29% owning a cat (ref: RSPCA). Many Australian pet owners consider their furry friends to be a part of the family, with

many going to almost any length for their animals.

So just how far are pet owners willing to go for their beloved friends? According to a recent study by PETstock's Pet Parent Survey, 76% of dog and 62% of cat owners would be willing to risk their lives for their pets, while 86% of all owners are willing to take a sickie to look after their dog and interestingly enough, more than a third

already have!

The survey revealed fascinating behaviour that pet owners' display, some of which may astonish you. What comes as no surprise however is the bond we share with our pets, so much so that 79% of dog owners let their buddy sleep indoors, with 26% cuddling up to their pooch in bed. In particular, Victorians are more likely to keep their pet close





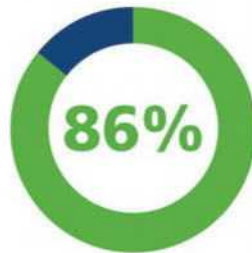


at night, with 46% allowing their dog to sleep in their bedroom or on their bed.

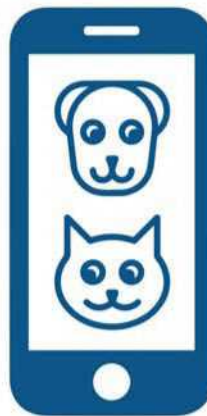
If you have ever been guilty of calling, Face-timing or Skyping your dog while away from home, you're not the only one. A considerable 48% of owners have talked to their dog on the phone, versus 29% of cat owners. Furthermore, 46% of dog and 30% of cat owners have included their dog in family portraits and Christmas cards.

As for those who are consumed with work and have little time for play, 26% of pet owners have taken matters into their own hands and have brought their dog to work, while only 8% of cat owners have done so. When it comes to sharing food, cat owners seem to be more tolerant than dog owners with 29% admitting to letting their pet eat from their plate compared to 27% of dog owners.

If this isn't enough, the survey revealed even stranger antics pet parents have owned up to. This includes installing surveillance cameras to track their pets, with 46% of dog and 33% of cat owners admitting they would. The survey also



**86%** of all owners are willing to take a sickie to look after their dog, and more than a third already have



Facebook was the most popular channel for sharing images online, Instagram was the second most popular, followed by Snapchat



**65%** of people love pets and confess that they can't get enough of pet pics on social media, and 87% don't really care whether they know the owner or not!

**42%** of pet owners agreed that they'd rather see photos and stories of pets over their friends' children, but only 20% categorically disagreed with this sentiment



86% of dog owners would take the day off work to look after their dog, versus 75% of cat owners



27% of dog owners have let their dog eat off their plate, versus 29% of cat owners



50% of dog owners would hold a funeral for their dog, versus 50% of cat owners



48% of dog owners have talked to their dog on the phone, versus 29% of cat owners



46% of dog owners would install surveillance to track their dogs versus 33% of cat owners



46% of dog owners have included their dog in family portraits and Christmas cards, versus 30% of cat owners



26% of dog owners have taken their dog to work, versus 8% of cat owners



38% of dog owners would leave a relationship for their dog, versus 36% of cat owners

demonstrates the love we have for our pets, considering them to be members of the family. This extends to the grief we feel when our pets pass away, with 60% of dog and 50% of cat owners revealing they would hold a funeral for their pet. Some pet owners can't stand to be away from their pets and a generous 36% of dog owners have admitted they feel this way, having chosen a travel destination based on whether their dog could come. Further to this, 5% of dog owners have left a relationship because

of a conflict over their dog.

Other interesting behaviour included 20% of dog and 10% of cat owners confessing they had thrown a birthday party for their pet. Some owners even went as far as divulging that they had spent more on a present for their four legged friend than on their partner, with 16% of dog and 8% of cat owners guilty of this.

So what exactly does all this research say about Australians and their pets? PETstock's Chief Executive Officer, Shane Young states, "it's quite clear that many Australians consider pets cherished family members, including them in family portraits, throwing birthday parties and mourning their passing with funerals and cremations".

"The latest trend towards humanising pets is on the rise, with a number of A-list celebrities and their pampered pooches leading the movement. Miranda Kerr's Yorkshire terrier Frankie accompanies her to photo-shoots and public appearances; and look at the royal family, William and Kate included their English Cocker Spaniel Lupo in their first family portrait!" 🐾



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# Budgies

Budgies – a charming and intelligent bird that makes an ideal companion for anyone

**B**udgerigars, or 'budgies' as they are more commonly known, are one of the most popular pet birds due to their quirky, fun and playful nature as well as their beautiful looks. Budgies are parakeets that originated in Australia and lived primarily in grassland areas. In the wild, Budgies are nomadic, moving to new areas in search of food and water.

As domestic pets, these small parrots make delightful companions. They are friendly, easy to tame and entertaining. While they can sometimes be difficult to understand, they are also quite intelligent, capable of mimicking speech.

## Choosing a budgie

If you have decided a Budgie is for you, the next step is choosing a bird. Budgies may be

purchased from a birdshop or a reputable breeder, who will be able to explain to you in detail the ins and outs of owning a bird. If possible, try to choose a young bird as they are easier to tame and train. The older the bird, the harder it is for them to be trained. Wild and parent raised birds may also prove difficult. Hand raised babies often make better pets since they have been socialised with humans their entire life.

You must also decide if you would like your bird to have clipped wings. Whilst there are benefits to having both clipped and unclipped wings, it is completely up to you whether you would like your bird to have one or the other. Having an unclipped bird means they can get lots of exercise and escape from other pets in the house if needed. On the other hand, clipped birds

aren't able to fly away from you, or worse, they run the risk of escaping. Bird's moult their feathers at least once a year so your bird's wings will eventually grow back should you decide to clip them.

Once you have chosen a Budgie, keep in mind that new birds should be exposed early to a range of events and situations including handling by young people, socialisation with other pets, experiencing car trips and visits to the vet. This will help your Budgie become a calm, well-adjusted pet, particularly if you have a busy household.

## Caring for your Budgie

**Cage setup** – Before you bring your budgie home, you should make sure you have everything ready to go to ensure a smooth





## Health issues

An easy way to pick up on any health issues your bird may be experiencing is by noticing changes in their environment when cleaning the cage. Signs that your Budgie may be unwell include:

- They haven't been eating a normal amount of food
- There is regurgitated material in the cage
- Their droppings appear unusual
- A large amount of feathers have been shed
- You can also check for hazardous materials such as damaged toys that need replacing or rusting bars that need repairing.

Additionally you should also check the length of your Budgie's nails. If they become too long they should be trimmed by a vet. You should also worm your Budgie every six months. If you notice your bird is moulting, this is completely normal. Most Budgies will moult once or twice a year, for six to eight weeks. During this time your bird requires more energy than usual to replace their feathers. A conditioning food, millet spray and vitamin supplement should be given to your bird when moulting.



transition from the breeder or birdshop into their new home. This includes having their cage set up with a range of accessories and having purchased necessary items such as a supply of quality seeds, treatments, a Cuttlebone and a cover for the cage. Budgies are very playful animals so you should add a selection of toys to their cage such as bells, mirrors, plastic balls and perches. The style of the cage you select is up to you, however it is essential that your budgie has an adequate amount of room to move around and play. Remember that you will fill your cage up with perches, toys and feeding bowls so a large cage is recommended. If you plan to train your budgie you can even select a cage that opens at the front so they can easily hop

onto your hand when opened. You can hang your Budgies cage outside during the day if it's not too hot or cold, remembering to bring it back inside before night falls. Also avoid positioning the cage in an area free from draughts and air conditioning. At dusk it is ideal to cover your Budgies cage with a specialised cover or towel as your bird will need to dwell at its natural hour.

Cage maintenance – As with all caged pets, it is recommended that you clean your bird's enclosure at least once a week and apply a fresh liner or shellgrit to the base of the tray. If the bottom of the cage becomes soiled quickly, you may need to replace the liner or shellgrit more frequently. Food and water dishes should be washed in hot, soapy water and dried thoroughly before being placed





back in the cage. You should wash your bird's dishes at least once a week and ensure that there are no remnants of soap or water sitting in the dish when your bird's food is served.

**Exercise** – Your bird requires daily exercise and should be let out to fly around your home. Before letting your bird out make sure to 'bird proof' your home by covering

all windows and mirrors and closing all doors so your Budgie does not injure themselves. If you have any other pets it is important you keep them in a different room while your bird is out of their cage. Allowing your bird to fly every day will keep them happier, healthier and fit.

**Grooming** – Budgies love to splash about

in water and so a lukewarm bath can be provided for them on occasion. You can also use a water mister or grooming spray to clean their feathers.

**Feeding** – The majority of a Budgie's diet is made up of seeds and greens, which should incorporate fresh quality seeds and a range of vegetables and fruits in small amounts. Ensure your Budgie's water is replaced daily and that they have a piece of Cuttlebone to peak at to file their beak and provide a source of calcium. Fresh water must be available to your Budgie daily. Please note that you

### Tip:

Most cages come with a plastic or wooden perch, which means your Budgie will always have its feet in the same position. To give your Budgie the chance to stretch out its feet, you can always replace one of the standardised perches with a tree branch from your backyard.



should never feed your Budgie lettuce, avocado, rhubarb, chocolate, alcohol, fruit seeds or caffeine as these foods can make your bird very ill. Consult your vet if you are unsure of the best foods to be feeding your Budgie.

## Training your budgie

To start taming your pet Budgie, the first and most important step is getting your bird to trust you. Do this by always moving slowly and talking softly around your pet, even when you are not necessarily training them. Abrupt movements and loud noises will startle your bird and make it difficult for them to trust you.

The next stage of training involves getting your Budgie to hop out of their cage and onto your hand. This can take some time to master but once your bird builds up confidence they will master the move in no time. You can entice your Budgie with treats to get them to step onto your finger. Remember to be patient and never chase your bird around their cage.

If your Budgie is to remain tame and remember any tricks you've taught them, it is essential that you handle them daily. For further advice you can consult a breeder or vet. 🌟



## Fact file

**Lifespan:** On average, 5 to 8 years

**Size:** 17cm including tail and weigh 30-35g

**Temperament:** Friendly, cheerful, gentle, playful and active

**Colours:** A huge variety of colours and patterns are available such as violet, blue, yellow, pied and albino

**Suitability:** Budgies make particularly excellent pets for those who live in apartments, small houses or rental properties where larger pets may not be practical or accepted

**Noise level:** Budgies are known to softly chirp and chatter without making excessively loud noises

**Restrictions:** Domesticated Budgies are acceptable to keep as pets throughout Australia, however wild Budgies are restricted in most states and territories. Check with your local council before purchasing a Budgie to ensure there are no restrictions in your area



# Did you know?

Fun pet facts!

A cat will almost never meow at another cat. Cats use this sound for humans.

Every known dog, except the chow, has a pink tongue - a chow's tongue is black.

Dogs do not have an appendix.

Dogs can donate blood to other dogs and cats can donate blood to other cats.

The dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans.

All kittens are born with blue eyes.

Dogs have about 100 different facial expressions, most of them made with the ears.

Contrary to popular belief, dogs aren't color blind; they can see shades of blue, yellow, green and gray. The color red registers on a grayscale in a dog's vision.

The oldest dog ever died at age 29.


A dog's nose has about 4 times as many scent cells as a cat's and 14 times more than a human's.

Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet.

Dogs can alert their owners of an epileptic seizure up to an hour before it occurs.







A cat can jump as much as 7 times its height.

A cat's brain is more similar to a human's brain than that of a dog.

A pack of kittens is called a kindle, while a pack of adult cats is called a clowder.

Cats can see color. Studies have shown that cats can distinguish between red and green; red and blue; red and gray; green and blue; green and gray; blue and gray; yellow and blue, and yellow and gray.

A fifteen year old cat has probably spent ten years of its life sleeping.

Cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four toes on each back paw.

Cats cannot break a sweat because they have no sweat glands.

A cat sees about 6 times better than a human at night.

A cat uses its whiskers as feelers to determine if a space is too small to squeeze through.

Cats have a third eyelid that is rarely visible. If it can be seen, it could be an indication of ill health.

A cat's tongue is scratchy because it's lined with papillae - tiny backwards hooks that help to hold prey in place.

Domesticated for more than 10,000 years, the dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans.

A cat can be either right-pawed or left-pawed.

# Shopping Guide

## Pet cameras by Eyenimal

The life of a pet is often shrouded in mystery – what do they do when no one is home? With the latest innovation from Eyenimal there is no need to guess! With the company's new range of unique, high tech pet products, pet owners get the chance to see through the eyes of their pet. The range includes:

- **Pet Vision Live:** A stand-alone video camera that allows pet owners to monitor their pet as well as communicate with their furry friend while they are away from home. RRP \$179.95
- **Dog Videocam:** Attaches to your dog's collar and is specifically designed for outdoor canine activity enthusiasts. RRP \$249.95
- **Petcam:** A small camera that can be attached to either a dog or cat's collar to record daily life as seen from the eyes of the pet. RRP \$139.95
- **Cat Videocam:** Allows cat owners to view scenes from their feline's eyes. The device is smaller than Petcam and includes night vision to capture their nocturnal outings. RRP \$189.95

For more information visit [www.petinnovations.com.au](http://www.petinnovations.com.au)



## Vitapet Jerhigh Milky Sticks 100gm

These treats are made from baked chicken and milk – giving your dog extra calcium for healthy teeth and bones. They make the perfect treat for rewarding good behaviour, especially suitable for growing puppies. With every bite, your dog will be boosting their health and wellbeing with the intake of protein, fatty acids, iron, vitamins and minerals.

RRP \$5.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## PETstock Assist Charity Dog

Purchase this cute dog for your pet and support PETstock Assist to help pets in need, with 50% of profits from the charity dog being donated to this worthy cause.

RRP \$14.95 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## Buddy & Belle Microfiber Towel

The Buddy & Belle microfiber towel is soft, ultra absorbent, machine washable and quick to dry. Available from PetStock stores and online.

RRP \$12.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## Pet Gear Car Booster Seat

This booster seat offers your favourite little one the ability to stay comfortable and secure without impairing your driving abilities. This sturdy yet cozy booster seat utilises your car's seat belt system to secure the seat in place.

RRP \$139.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>





## Buddy & Belle Cooling Mat

The Buddy & Belle Cooling Mat is an easy way to keep your pet cool during the warm weather. Best of all no electricity is required, simply put in the freezer for extra coolness!

RRP from \$22.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## Rose-Hip Vital Canine

Rose-Hip Vital Canine is an exciting and innovative high-impact treatment for joint health and general wellbeing of active and ageing dogs. It is made from 100% pure and natural Rosehip fruit that undergoes patented manufacturing and drying processes. The product is available in Canine and Equine varieties starting from RRP \$39.95.

For more information visit <http://rosehipvitalcanine.com.au/>



## Petlife Waterless Cat Shampoo

This waterless shampoo is ideal to use when spot cleaning your cat's coat, or when bathing may not be convenient. It can be used as an alternative to liquid shampoos and requires absolutely no water. In an easy to apply spray bottle and its melon and dewberry scent, washing your cat has never been easier or better smelling!

RRP \$12.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## EzyDog Fold a Bowl Collapsible Dog Bowl

This foldable bowl is super convenient for when you are on the go with your dog or area down at the park for a spot of exercise. The Fold-A-Bowl is light, easily folds and can be transported with a travel clip so you can take it anywhere.

RRP \$21.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



## Shear Magic Grooming Glove

Made from anti-slip rubber, the glove turns grooming into quality bonding time. All dogs love a pat from their best friend, so the grooming glove helps you to multi-task. The magic grooming glove helps clean and soften their coat and eliminates tangles and mats.

RRP \$20.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au>



# Turtles

Turtles – a gentle yet endearing and quirky pet!

**T**here is no doubt that turtles are one of the most popular reptiles due in part to their adorable facial expressions, interesting shell patterns and reserved nature. Freshwater turtles can make rewarding pets for those who have the time to meet the very specific care requirements of this animal. Turtles must live in a comfortable environment if they are to remain happy and healthy, however proper care is within the capabilities of most people. One important thing to keep in mind when considering a turtle is the lifelong commitment they encompass; your turtle may outlive you!

## Caring for your turtle

### Cage setup

Baby turtles should be kept indoors in glass tanks or enclosures that include ponds. If selecting a glass tank or enclosure, keep in mind that your turtle will soon grow and will require plenty of room to move about. A large tank that is at least 150cm x 60cm x 60cm is required for your adult turtle, remembering that turtles hibernate in the winter and can be brought inside until the weather warms once again. When you have selected a tank, your setup must include: an area your turtle can 'swim' in, a dry area away from the water and access to sunlight

or artificial light. You will require a substrate of gravel, basking logs, a water filter for the pond or water area and a submersible water heater. If you have extra cash to spare, a siphon and hose or a gravel vacuum-cleaner is an excellent investment. For most species of turtle, it is a good idea to add a small amount of aquarium salt to the water, but always check with your breeder or vet before doing so.

### General care

**Feeding** –Turtles enjoy a diet much like us, one with variety and balance that includes both meat and plants. You should aim to





## Choosing a Turtle

In Australia, you are not permitted to catch a turtle in the wild and keep it as a pet. If you would like a pet turtle, it must be obtained from a reputable breeder and you might also need a reptile license, depending on the regulations in your state or territory. Once you have sought permission by your state government and/or local council and are granted a licence to own a turtle, you can then get in contact with a breeder.

The most common species to keep as pets in Australia are the Eastern Snake Necked or Long Necked turtle. Other favourites include the Murray turtle and the Sawtell turtle. The breeder you contact should be able to explain the differences between each specie and their specific requirements. If you are ever unsure about a breeder's legitimacy, it is best to contact the RSPCA to get their advice on selecting a breeder. Whichever breed of turtle you choose, make sure the turtle is active with bright eyes. It should pull back its head if touched and there should be no mucus coming from the nose or mouth. Lastly, look out for white or soft spots on the shell or skin as this can be a sign of ill health.



have at least six different kinds of food at one given time, as well as a turtle pellet which forms the basis of your pet's diet. Turtles may eat raw fish, yabbies, shrimp and worms. Meat purchased from a butcher or supermarket is not suitable for turtles as it is much fattier than meat they would find in the wild and this can upset their digestion. Calcium is also important for turtles and can be provided by putting a small hard block of plaster in their water so it dissolves gradually, releasing calcium. An unusual fact about turtles is that the freshwater species must submerge themselves in water in order to eat. It is absolutely essential that your turtle have constant access to water and a way to climb out so they do not drown.

Exercise – You may be wondering why exercise is even a consideration when it

comes to having a pet turtle. Contrary to popular belief, turtles are surprisingly active animals and will not cope if they don't have sufficient room to roam, run and swim. You can also allow your turtle to swim in a wading pool a few times a week to provide them with an extra form of exercise.

Grooming – Although your turtle may not technically need to be groomed, their enclosure certainly does. Cleanliness is essential in keeping your turtle free from diseases, some of which can be difficult to treat. Regularly change your turtle's water, clean their cage, gravel and any food bowls, remembering to wash your hands before and after handling your pet. Turtle's groom themselves by scratching the head and neck with their front legs as well as scratching the inside of one rear leg with the claws of the other rear leg. 🐾

## Fact file

**Lifespan:** Most say 20-30 years however this varies greatly and many turtles can live up to 50 years of age and beyond.

**Size:** The average size of a freshwater turtle is 25cm in shell length. Females grow longer than males and with age develop a deep shell.

**Suitability:** Turtles are suited to most home environments whereby consistent upkeep can be provided. If you have other pets such as dogs and cats, you may need to reconsider if you think they could pose a risk to the safety of your turtle.

**Restrictions:** Keeping native (freshwater turtles) as pets requires special care and is subject to permit and licensing restrictions. This varies between states and territories so it's best to contact your state or territory government to find out what restrictions apply.



# *Foster Programs*

There is no doubt that Australian's love their dogs and cats. These sweet companions often become our best friends and much loved members of the family. We love our pets so much that 1 in 3 households owns a dog and 1 in 4 owns a cat.

**D**espite our loving attitudes towards our pets, more than 100,000 cats and dogs were killed in pounds last year alone. Rescue groups and shelters work hard to save these pets, but are often under

resourced and overloaded. It is a sad yet routine situation that these animals find themselves, with most of them having fallen victim to homelessness due to no fault of their own. There is hope however for these

animals, with the assistance of animal welfare organisations such as PetRescue.

## **What is PetRescue?**

PetRescue is an organisation that supports

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over 900 rescue groups, shelters and pounds nationwide, connecting them with adopters, foster carers and support services via their website PetRescue.com.au. Since the establishment of PetRescue in 2004, the organisation has seen animal welfare turn on its head, as hundreds of thousands of pet-loving Australians like you have discovered ways to help improve outcomes for rescue pets and become advocates for positive change.

Of the over 320,000 pets who found new loving homes via PetRescue.com.au, the majority were cared for by foster care based rescue groups, who enlist the help of volunteers to provide a safe and nurturing environment for a homeless pet until a permanent home is found.

Most rescue groups don't have shelter facilities to house pets and rely on a network of foster carers, to care for pets in their own homes. Some shelters also rely on foster carers to care for sick, injured or very young pets until they are ready to be adopted.

More than 70% of the thousands of pets listed on PetRescue everyday are currently in foster care, but every year over 200,000 pets find themselves in our countries pounds, without a future and the very real risk of being killed. Although there are hundreds of rescue organisations trying to save these pets, groups can only take a pet if they know they have a carer to foster them. Without a carer available, a pet faces a very uncertain future in the pound.

## Why do pets need foster care?

Foster carers who open their homes to a homeless pet until a permanent family is found are a vital part of the rescue process, with every carer responsible for saving the life of a pet.

Fostering a homeless animal is also a great way to socialise and re-train pets in preparation for their new owners. With a little extra care during this uncertain time in their lives, foster carers provide pets with a greater chance of finding a forever home.

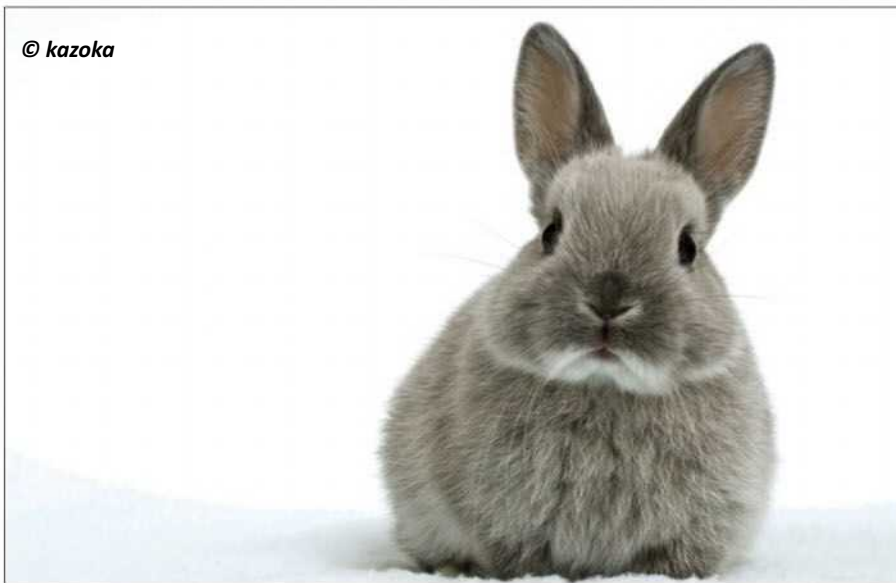
All types of pets are looking for permanent homes and you can foster a range of pets from dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs and horses.

## How can you help?

### Become a foster carer

There are so many wonderful reasons to

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become a foster carer. The two biggest include knowing that you have saved a life as well as the joy you get from spending time with an animal that loves you unconditionally.

People from all walks of life become foster carers. There are students who can't commit to a lifelong pet, those who love pets but want to travel, families who want to make a difference and introduce their children to pet responsibility as well as those who have the capacity to welcome an additional pet into their lives. The only thing foster carers have in common is their love of pets!

#### **What does foster caring involve?**

Love and compassion are the main requirements of a foster carer. For those who are experienced with pets, foster caring should come naturally. For others that may be looking after a pet for the first time, your rescue group will be able to talk you through the process and provide you with support. All foster carers are provided with the necessary information needed to care for their pet prior to taking the animal home.



### Considering becoming a foster carer? Here are 10 reasons why you should!

1. You're rescuing a homeless pet that may otherwise be euthanised at the pound if a temporary or permanent home is not found for them.
2. You're providing a safe and nurturing environment for a pet that's in desperate need of a second chance.
3. You're creating a happy, adoptable pet that's able to adapt easily to life in a family home.
4. You're helping to ease the strain on local rescue shelters.
5. You get the opportunity to 'try before you buy'.
6. It makes you the most awesome parent.
7. You can share your life with every kind of pet.
8. You'll make more friends.
9. It's a more flexible way of having a pet in your life.
10. You can enjoy all the unconditional love a rescue pet brings.

### Contacts

Visit [www.PetRescue.com.au](http://www.PetRescue.com.au) to find out how to become a foster carer, or to find pets needing care using the 'Pets looking for foster care' search function on the website.

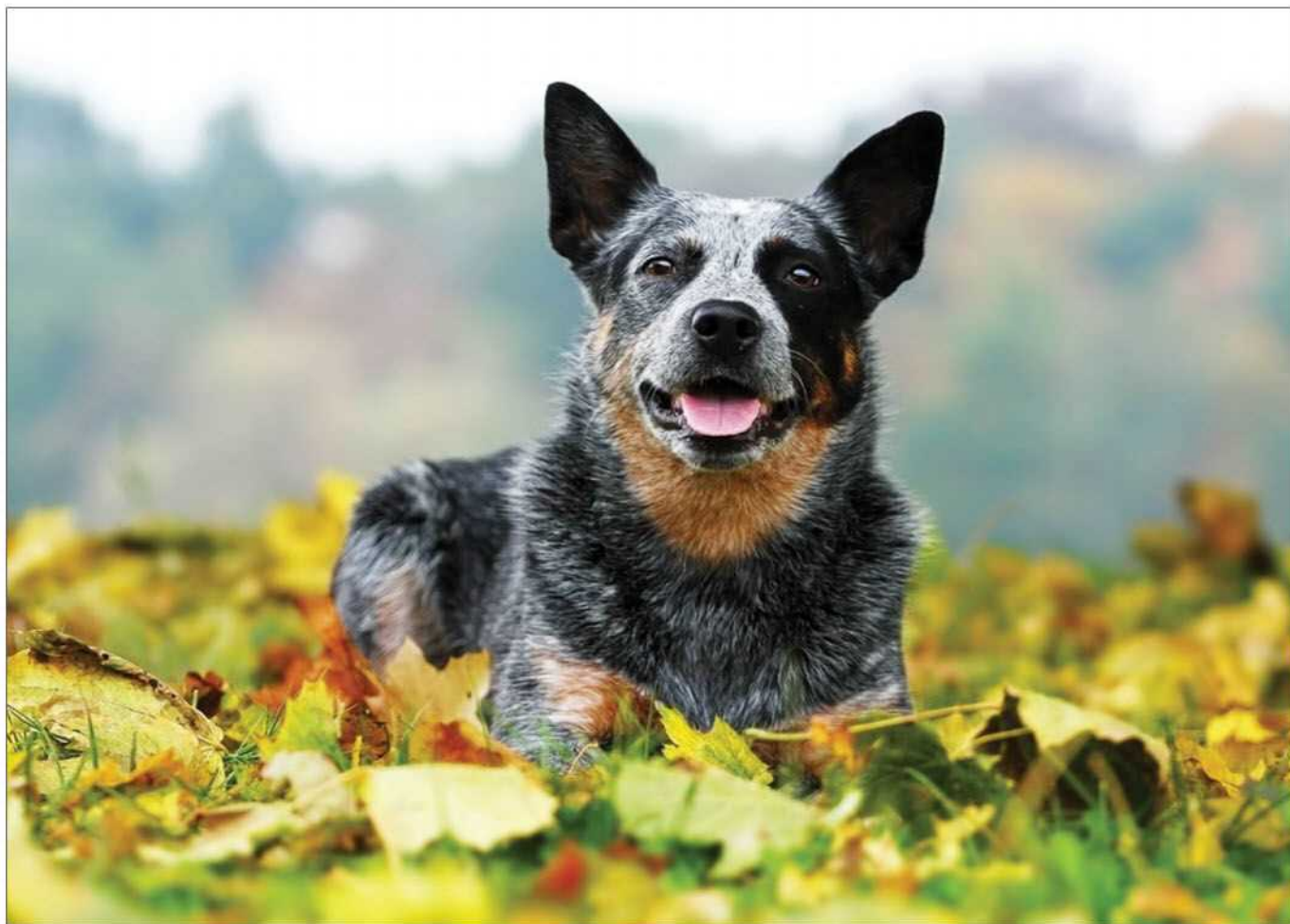


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The time and effort required to care for your foster pet depends on many factors including age, breed and the pet's background. If you decide to become a foster carer for unweaned puppies, you won't be getting much sleep for a few weeks! But if you are looking to help a settled or older dog or cat, then you'll just be providing the normal amount of cuddles and walks the pet needs. The amount of time your foster pet will be under your care differs between each pet. If you are fostering a small-breed puppy, they are unlikely to be with you for more than a few weeks. On the other hand, if you foster a large boisterous dog, they may be with you for a few months. The rescue group will give you an idea on how long they expect each pet to be in your care.

The costs associated with caring for a foster pet depends on the rescue group you are working with. All rescue groups operate slightly different depending on their size,

location and the type of pets they rehome. Generally, most rescue groups will cover all vet costs and the foster carer provides food. If your circumstances change and you are no longer able to care for your foster pet, the rescue group will find a new foster carer for the pet.

If for any reason your foster pet isn't a good match for your family, your rescue group are able to find a new carer. Of course, there are foster carers that fall in love with their temporary pets and decide they want to keep them – and that's completely fine. You can make it official and adopt your foster pet if you wish. Hopefully you will want to continue fostering other pets too!

#### **Other ways you can help**

**Donation** - If you feel like foster caring is a worthy cause but aren't able to take on a temporary pet, you can still support PetRescue by donating a tax-deductible gift. Donations give Australia's homeless pets

the best chance of surviving the pound and finding a forever home. Visit <https://www.petrescue.com.au/donate> to find out more about donating.

**Fundraiser** – To raise awareness and donate to PetRescue, why not consider starting a fundraising campaign. There are a number of fundraiser ideas on the PetRescue website, including school, workplace and small business fundraisers as well as special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. Visit <https://www.petrescue.com.au/fundraising> to find out more.

**Volunteer** – If you can't take on the commitment of foster care but would still like to help out, there are plenty of rescue shelters around the country that are looking for volunteers. Visit PetRescue's Rescue Directory to get in contact with your local shelter regarding volunteer opportunities: [https://www.petrescue.com.au/rescue\\_directory](https://www.petrescue.com.au/rescue_directory) 🐾



Hints and tips for  
looking after your pet

## *Bathing Your Dog*

Easy tips to ensure a successful wash!

**B**athing your dog isn't always a pleasant experience and many dog owners can relate to the tediousness of having to restrain their dog from clawing, climbing and doing all that they can to avoid the path of water. Don't get us wrong, your dog may absolutely love water and bath time is no trouble for you – consider yourself lucky! For the rest of us dog owners who cringe at the thought of washing our pooches, we have constructed some tips to help make bath time slightly less stressful; for you and your dog!

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© Olimpik





© Kudrashka

#### **Wash carefully...**

When washing your dog it is essential that you protect their ears, eyes and mouth from the water. Not only is it uncomfortable for dogs to accidentally have water go inside their ear, it can actually cause a range of health issues. It is best to completely avoid spraying their head with water; instead it is ideal to wash from the

neck downwards. If you would like to clean their face, you can do so by using a damp wash cloth.

#### **Experience is key...**

If you have a puppy, start washing them as soon as possible even if this means starting with a light sprinkle of water rather than a

## Bath time is positive and rewarding...

The best and easiest way to get your dog to become comfortable with bath time is to have them associate the experience with a positive outcome. This can include offering your dog toys or treats to coax them into the bath and continuing to reward them once they behave in a calm manner. Be cautious not to throw them into the deep end straight away. Begin by having your dog sit in the empty tub while they are fed treats and given their favourite toy to play with. Once they are settled you can start adding warm water whilst continuously rewarding them with treats for remaining well behaved.



© Olimpik





© WilleeCole  
Photography



© Jim Vallee

complete wash and dry. Exposure to bath time and water at a young age will ensure they are comfortable with the experience as they grow older.

#### **Use quality shampoo...**

Don't cheap out when it comes to your dog's grooming care. Using a poor quality shampoo can cause your dog's skin to become dry and itchy, making bath time even more distressing. When purchasing a shampoo look out for a reputable brand,

ask for advice or visit your vet who can recommend brands that clean and remove bad odours without stripping the skin.

#### **Dry thoroughly...**

Some dog owners prefer to use a hair dryer to complete the grooming process and this is perfectly fine if your dog doesn't mind the noise and feel of the dryer. As with all new experiences, you can teach your dog to sit calmly whilst being dried using treats and toys. For some dogs though, this method is just not

an option. The other way to go is to simply towel dry your dog using a designated towel or an absorbent dog towel. If you are washing your dog in the backyard, keep a close guard so your pooch doesn't make a beeline straight for a dirt patch and of course be prepared for the inevitable post-bath shake!

By making pleasant associations and remaining both calm and assertive, bath time can become just another opportunity to bond with your precious pooch. 🌿



© Mat Hayward



# Storybook Farm- Sacred Animal Garden

A magical farm offering special needs animals a second chance...

As animal lovers it is always warming to hear stories of pets being adopted or fostered into loving homes. For those compassionate people who take in pets that were once lost, abandoned or removed from previous owners due to welfare issues, it gives us hope that one day animal cruelty will become a thing of the past. For Lisa-Jayne Cameron, saving and caring for special needs animals is the centre of her world. We were fortunate enough to speak to this amazing woman who operates a farm with a heart-warming

spin. Located in Canungra, Queensland, Storybook Farm- Sacred Animal Garden is a sanctuary for disabled and special needs animals as well as an educational farm for children.

Founded four years ago but only gaining public recognition in the last two years, Storybook Farm is a magical place that offers animals a second chance at life. This fairy-tale farm does not discriminate – housing every type of animal from dogs, cats, horses and ponies to goats, alpacas, poultry donkeys and even a mule. Most





of these animals have come to live at Storybook Farm through a range of different animal groups including social groups who specialise in a certain breed, general animal rescue groups and people who have seen Storybook Farm in the media and have got in contact. Primarily Lisa and her family look after the farm and its day to day requirements, however they have the assistance of helpers when the workload becomes particularly hectic.

Starting out her working life in the corporate world, Lisa's lifelong passion for animals and children eventually led her to establish Storybook Farm. Not only is the farm a sanctuary for animals, it is also an educational place for children to visit. Lisa runs a range of interactive classes for all age groups, including creative storytelling for young children and workshops for older children. The classes are run with one aim – to teach compassion and care for animals in an enjoyable way. The classes offer an opportunity to gain educational understanding of animals in a fun atmosphere – so much so that many children and even their parents end up not wanting to leave! Unfortunately in recent times Lisa's daughter has developed some serious health issues and challenges which meant the classes were put on hold. Lisa is since happy to announce that the classes will resume again in the New Year, so keep your eye out for more information.

A key fixture of the farm is little Krumm and his partner-in-crime Nanook, Dachshund's who have suffered unfortunate health problems, resulting in the loss of movement in their back legs. Fortunately for Krumm and Nanook, they have been fitted with speciality frames with wheels so they can continue living life to the fullest. Despite their disability, their conditions have not slowed these fun-loving dogs down in the slightest. Krumm and Nanook both enjoy running, chasing and playing as much as they did before their diagnosis. Lisa goes on to explain that in Australia, we still have a tendency to euthanise animals with disabilities, which saddens her. Although we can't save every single animal, Lisa believes that animals that have a strong will to live should be given a second chance.

Many wonder why Lisa and her family have given up so much to assist these animals and her answer is simple; animals have assisted and continue to help humans in just about every facet of our lives.







## Success stories

"Here at Storybook we tend to do things very differently from most people's perception of a sanctuary due to the very nature of our work. We work daily with animals that for many different reasons have permanent disabilities and challenges so our expectations and goals differ from those at standard shelters. For example, instead of the family surrendering their beloved pet and never seeing them again, we often join the family and together we raise the animal, like Krumm the dachshund on wheels."



## Krumm's story

"Krumm went down with a confronting disease called IVDD – Intervertebral Disc Disease-which causes paralysis in a dogs rear legs. Most dogs recover fully through surgery and rehabilitation but a small percentage do not and Krumm is part of that group, he will never regain the use of his back legs. Krumm is known as our resident pirate. We call him this because of the way he pillages and plunders his way through each day! Being on wheels has certainly not slowed this boy down.

We have been blessed to have this rogue for a couple of years now and I couldn't imagine life without him. I first heard about Krumm through one of the Dachshund groups, his family were looking for an urgent home for him. I got in touch with them and said of course Krumm could come to us and made arrangements to meet.

Many people who heard Krumm was being rehomed were quite upset and made some heated comments but nothing could have been further from the truth. Krumm's family were so distraught at the thought of him being re-homed. He belonged to the father of the family who sadly passed away and as his mother was unable to help so their daughter became Krumm's carer. Caring for him is not often easy as he faces many challenges, one of which is the inability to urinate. Unfortunately for Krumm he needs to be squeezed four to five times daily to pass urine, requiring a surprising amount of hand strength. As often happens, Krumm's newly appointed carer had to move interstate and into a small apartment. Rather than moving Krumm, they made the heart-breaking decision to find him a new home. Continued >



Even people who have never owned a pet and live in apartments free of animals are being helped daily by animals. For example, there are dogs that protect us, dogs that guide us, dogs who help us hear, those that warn of seizures and therapy dogs – just to name a few. Lisa feels that we owe our animal friends so much for all that they have done and still continue to do for us. Lisa believes that we all have the ability to make a difference; we just need to step up and help where we can – be it for animals, people or the environment.

Lisa further explains that many children are becoming distant from animals and the natural world in general. There is a growing trend for children to become so focused on electronics and forget that there is a whole world to explore. She believes that playing outside is necessary for children to build imagination, individuality and creativity; the foundation of confident and happy adults. Lisa is passionate about children's literature, so combining her two passions together



in the form of her educational children's classes has been wonderful for her. To Lisa, a good day at the office is having a child excitedly share the story they just heard along with the special bond they shared with the disabled animals.

Although Storybook Farm will continue

to assist special needs animals and offer educational visits and classes to children, the costs of ongoing feed and vet bills is constant. There are a number of ways that Storybook funds its operation. The first is by taking in and rehabilitating animals for other families post-surgery. This includes offering







hydrotherapy, physio, massage and assisting with vet directives. Another way funds are raised is through donations in the form of money, food, blankets and other pet needs. At this stage Storybook Farm is not a fully registered charity but they will be soon. Until then, the public can support the farm through their GoGetFunding page which was set up on behalf of the farm by a friend who watched Lisa and her family support the sanctuary by themselves for such a long time.

If you would like to support Storybook Farm- Sacred Animal Garden, you can do so by donating through their funding page; the link can be found on their Facebook page. However, the farm's biggest and most urgent need is to find a secure property. They are seeking a permanent home, if anyone knows of an available rural property in South East



## Rabbit's story

"When Rabbit was just one week old she was stepped on. Her resulting injuries were a broken jaw, damaged neck, impaired eyesight and possible permanent ongoing neurological issues which left her initially with an inability to make any eye contact or to interact with anyone.

Rabbit was initially cared for by the wonderful Helen and then, just before she turned 16 weeks old, we had her flown up to us from Victoria.

She weighed just under 5kgs, couldn't walk in a straight line for long, would turn in constant circles and had enormous problems eating, which we all thought was obviously due to her fractured jaw. As it turned out, this wasn't her only issue.

After being with us for a couple of weeks, Rabbit's condition started to deteriorate rapidly. She started to lose more weight, didn't want to eat and her temperature soared. We thought we were going to lose her she was so weak and ill. We rushed her to our vet, who within a couple of minutes diagnosed Rabbit, on top of everything else, with tonsillitis. She had had it for at least a couple of months, having been missed by other vets due to her broken jaw.

After antibiotic injections and tablets she was starting to feel and look better after only 24 hours. By day two she was hungry and by day four she was stealing the cat's food!

Rabbit has continued to bloom to the point of being naughty and a bit destructive; tearing up books and paper is her favourite, which actually thrills us because it means she is mentally growing. She is still a bit behind but she is now acting like a pup of 8-10 months, which is wonderful to see.

Rabbit now loves to play with soft toys, run fast, walk in her harness, is learning to swim, interacts with the other dogs, adores Matthew the blind Staffy and last week she kissed me when I cuddled her. She still has a few small issues that will more than likely be forever but that just makes her more special to us and we wouldn't have her any other way.

Rabbit stills sings when she is happy and after two years with us, now weighs a whopping 6.4kg. When you consider that most adult female whippets weigh approximately 11-20kgs and stand at 44-54cm, compared to Rabbit's 35cm, it may very well be that we have the world's smallest whippet!"

## Storybook Farm

Queensland or Northern NSW.

If you would like to find out more about Storybook Farm, send a donation or simply say hello, get in touch with Lisa via

the Storybook Farm Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Storybook-Farm-Sacred-Animal-Garden> or email [lisa-jayne66@live.com](mailto:lisa-jayne66@live.com)

<Continued I arrived at their house in the evening to collect Krumm and there, standing in the doorway, was a tiny elegant lady holding him, surrounded by many bags of things he might need plus his wheelchair with tears in her eyes. I quickly went to her and said I wouldn't dream of just taking Krumm away and that I had a better plan in mind if we could go inside, grab some tissues and a cup of tea so I could better explain. It is common practice for animals that are rehomed to be handed over and that's that. Personally I have helped rehome countless animals over the years and that usually works fine, but at Storybook it is a different story – pardon the pun! I deal with each case individually and with Krumm I had a different idea altogether. I told his mum that rather than her say goodbyes to him permanently, perhaps we could join forces and together become the village that raises him.

At that stage I was living over 90kms away but went to the coast at least once a week so I proposed that every time I was on the coast I would call and let her know I was there. I would bring Krumm with me and if she was free we would meet up so that she would still get to see her boy on a regular basis. We both cried tears of different emotions.

We have been seeing each other regularly

now for a couple of years. They even came and spent Christmas Day with us as I now consider them all family. Krumm has so many people in his life who love him which to me is how it should be.

It makes my heart smile to see the love and joy on both an animal and human faces when they see each other. I do this with many families depending on the circumstances.

I offer this arrangement out of kindness and do not charge families to continue visiting their pet. I do it because of the heartbreak they experience and knowing I could help meant a lot. Many of the families help out where they can such as by sending us food." 🐾



# Meet Pickles

An Australian Golden Retriever who inspired a best-selling novel

I'm in a local bookshop seated at a kid's table with my Golden Retriever, Pickles, next to me. He's just placed

his large furry paw on the title page of my new novel, *Monty & Me*. The video cameraman zooms in on his paw which

Pickles retracts to reveal a black paw print – his signature.

As the inspiration for the dog hero of my book, Pickles is Monty's stand in for the YouTube videos we're shooting for the Australian launch. To my surprise, he's behaving like a trained movie dog. In fact, he's lapping up the attention. I half-expect him to demand a private dressing room, chef and groomer! Luckily, Pickles is happy with a treat and a hug and we move on to video the next scene, which is a book shop launch party. I am to chat to my publisher while the guests mingle with copies of *Monty & Me* in hand. Pickles has to walk through the store and join me. Everything is going according to plan until a distracted assistant places a silver platter of gourmet sandwiches too close to my food-focused dog. As the camera rolls, Pickles wolfs down the lot!

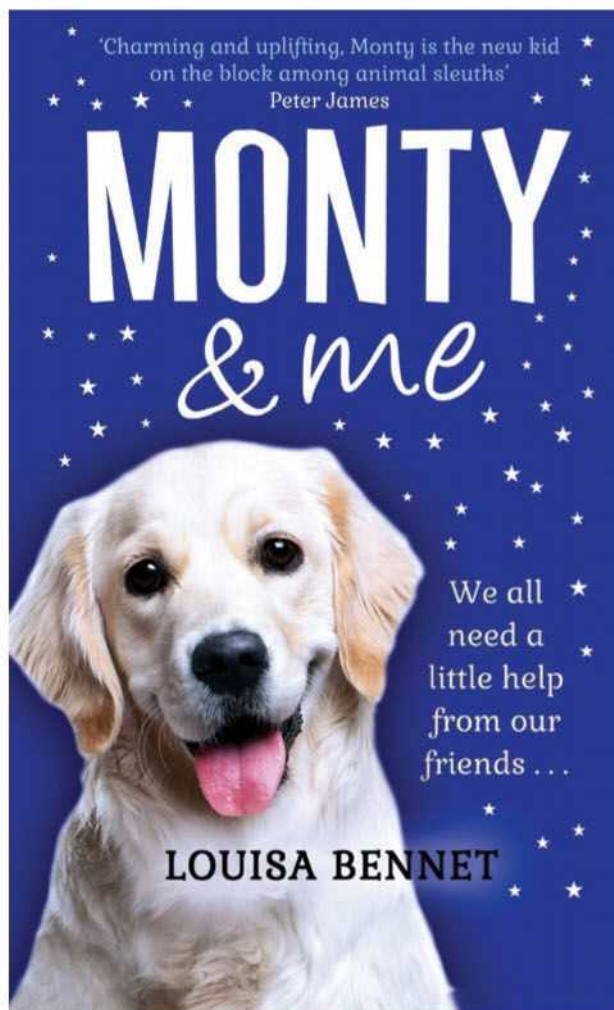
So how did an Australian Golden Retriever become the star of a UK bestseller? It started many years ago when I was in the UK staying at a converted barn turned holiday house. At that time my husband and I didn't have a dog. The owner of the property had a magnificent Golden Retriever that chased a squirrel up a tree and stood below barking at it. The squirrel peered down at the dog and squeaked angrily, flicking its tail. It appeared as if they were having an argument. Nearby lived a police dog handler and I'd watch her walking her German Shepherd and marvel at how the two worked together as one. So the idea for a story about a dog and a female detective began. The squirrel would play an important role too.

Years passed and I was focused on writing thrillers under the pseudonym L.A. Larkin, so *Monty & Me* remained a story outline on my computer. But when we moved to a house, we decided to get our own Golden Retriever. We did our



*Pickles has proved to be a highly intelligent and loving companion.*





MY DOG

homework and visited the breeder three times, meeting the puppies' parents, checking they were healthy and happy, because we'd heard about disreputable backyard breeders. Satisfied, we met the litter and I fell for the cheeky one with large inquisitive eyes. He was bouncing about playing his own game of chase-the-other-puppies'-tails.

'He's going to get into lots of pickles,' I said, and smiled. We wanted a dog with character. 'Let's call him Pickles.'

Pickles has proved to be a highly intelligent and loving companion. He lies on his mat next to my desk as I write. I sometimes read my work aloud when I'm editing and he listens, one ear raised.

'What do you think, Pickles?'

If he harrumphs and sighs I know it's not good enough. If he wags his tail, I've nailed it. He watches TV with us. His

favourite show is anything with David Attenborough and he'll occasionally bark at the animals, his paws up on the TV unit. He's taught himself to fish Alaskan bear style. He stands still in the water and waits, peering through the surface, watching for fish. If one moves close enough he plunges his head into the water, jaws open. He's reluctantly taken to wearing Doggles to protect his eyes from the glare of sunlight reflected on water. It's amazing what a Golden Retriever will do for food – good and bad. As a one year old he stole a whole roast chicken from a group having a park picnic and I had to chase after him and take the carcass away to stop him swallowing cooked chicken bones. Apologising to the group, I drove to the local supermarket to buy them another chicken. Pickles is the gentlest of dogs but when necessary,

he will defend us. Once, when we had an intruder on our property and I didn't hear him approach, Pickles barked at the back door to be let out, then charged around the corner and pinned the man against the fence, teeth bared.

Pickles has inspired many of Monty's character traits: a loyal and loving dog whose Achilles Heel is his food obsession and who likes nothing better than a spot of fishing. But the fictional dog does more than appear to understand what people say – he does understand, and he has some exceptional skills which help him solve the case.

With rescue centres desperate to find homes for dogs, I wanted Monty & Me not only to be entertaining but to have a positive message about adopting a rescued dog. Early in the novel, Monty is taken to the pound and is on death



row. The detective adopts him and they become a super crime-busting duo. I intended the story to be 'charming and uplifting', just as Peter James - author and dog lover - describes it.

When researching the book I discovered campaigns like Oscar's Law which aims for legislation to put an end to the factory farming of companion animals and encourages people to give a rescued dog a home rather than buying from pet shops. The RSPCA estimates that 95% of puppies sold in pet shops come from puppy farms or backyard breeders. When the RSPCA

raided a puppy farm in Pyramid Hill, Victoria, the inspectors found unhealthy and frightened puppies and bitches in filthy cages, kept in the dark, never shown any love and taken for walks. The owners were found guilty to two hundred and forty counts of animal cruelty. That's why on my Facebook and Twitter pages I advocate #AdoptDontShop.

A year ago we adopted a dog from Golden Retriever Rescue. Perhaps you might like to create your own uplifting story and give a rescued dog a happy home? 🐾



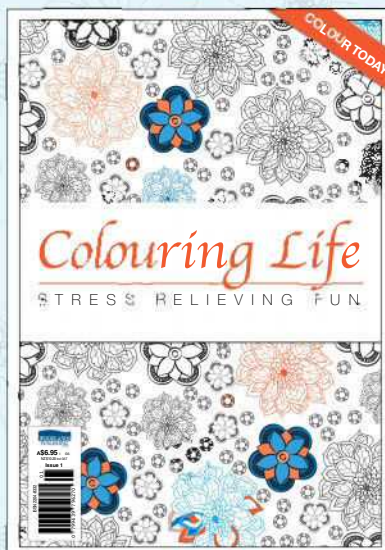
Louisa Bennet is the author of *Monty & Me* (published by Avon Books UK/Harper Collins Australia) in hardback and ebook.

Website: <http://montydogdetective.com/> Monty Dog Detective's

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# Pet events around Australia



## *Knox Pets in the Park 2016 Sunday 3 April 2016 Gilbert Park Reserve, Knoxfield*

Knox Council will hold its annual Knox Pets in the Park event with the aim of promoting responsible pet ownership as well as offering attendees the chance to visit a range of exhibitors in one place. Pets are more than welcome at the event and by bringing your companions along you even get the chance to win some great prizes!

Free activities on the day include dog training demonstrations, reptile and native animal displays, lure coursing, working dog demonstrations, stage entertainment and free kids rides.

For more information visit <http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/petexpo>



## *Top End Pet Expo Friday 15 April to Sunday 17 April 2016 Marrara Indoor Stadium, Darwin*

The Top End Pet Expo is a family friendly event and is held every year to help educate and assist people with responsible pet ownership. Chat with breeders, vets and trainers to get the lowdown on responsible pet ownership, tuning into talks, dog obedience and training displays.

For more information visit <http://www.darwinpetexpo.com.au/>

## *RSPCA Million Paws Walk Sunday 15 May 2016 Various locations throughout Australia*

Fetch your four legged friend and join the RSPCA for a PAWsome day out! The event includes a dog-friendly 4km course, entertainment and food stalls, prize giveaways for humans and pooches, pet advice and information from a range of experts.

Join in on the fun and walk to fight animal cruelty.

For more information visit <http://www.millionpawswalk.com.au/>



## *PIAA Pet Expo 2016, Thursday 20 October to Friday 21 October 2016, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre*

The PIAA Pet Expo and Conference is a national trade show open to pet retailers and all associated industries within the Australian pet trade. Sponsorship and exhibitor information will be released shortly.

For more information or to get in contact visit <http://piaa.net.au/>



### *Complete K9 Solutions seminar Saturday 12 March 2016 Furbaby Boutique & Café, Perth*

Complete K9 Solutions specialises in dog behaviour modification, education and 1:1 training. With a strong commitment to educating the public, Complete K9 Solutions will be hosting a series of Dog Behaviour Seminars throughout 2016 presented by Paul, a renowned Canine Behaviourist, to promote responsible dog ownership and to enhance our relationships with our dogs. Paul's seminars are guaranteed to be delivered with a sense of humour which is entertaining as well as informative. 'Like' Complete K9 Solutions on Facebook to keep up to date with seminar dates throughout 2016.



### *Melbourne Dog Lovers Show Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May 2016 Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton*

Building on last year's record breaking attendance, around 30,000 dog-tragics are expected to descend on the event which this year will be headlined for the first time by Bondi Vet's, Dr Chris Brown and beloved family favourite, Dr Harry Cooper.

Dr Chris and Dr Harry will be joined by other new faces to the show including renowned animal trainer, Peta Clarke (responsible for film dog training credits including Babe, Red Dog, Superman Returns and Wolverine), Australian Working Dog Rescue Int ambassador and Miss World Australia 2013, Erin Holland and Melbourne media favourite, 3AW's Pat Panetta.

Continuing to support the show's celebration of our Best Friends, Laura

Vissaritis, Tony Knight and Farmer Dave will also return in 2016 to captivate and educate visitors with their extensive knowledge and insights into dog training and behaviour.

Highlights to expect at this year's show include the CANIDAE Rescue Dog Zone, who have been responsible for re-homing 2,000 dogs since the 2013 Melbourne show and the ANZAC centenary tribute dedicated to Military Working Dogs, which will once again return in 2016 and see handlers share their personal stories of active service. The Royal Canin Breed Showcase will also be back, boasting dozens of DOGS Victoria breed clubs, from cheeky Chihuahuas to bouncy boxers.

New editions to this year's show include the SuperPooch competition,

which hopes to find Melbourne's most talented dog as well as the new look Pat-A-Pooch zone, which will allow visitors to get up close and personal with a plethora of pooches and puppies.

For more information visit <http://dogloversshow.com.au/melbourne/>



## Perth Pet Expo review and wrap up



On Saturday 7 November to Sunday 8 November 2015, the Silver Pet Prints Perth Pet Expo was held in conjunction with their major media partner, The West Australian. The event saw 5,000 dog and pet lovers visit the community event, which aimed to raise awareness and educate animal lovers about responsible pet ownership.

Popular attractions at the event included Dock Dogs, The Snake Whisperer (who also bought along a baby crocodile for attendees to hold), dog demonstrations, an interactive animal farm by Old Macdonalds Travelling Farms, pony rides for the kids, face painting by Connie Clown and many very happy exhibitors chatting to guests and their pets!

A highlight on the entertainment list was the DockDogs National Competition, which came to WA for the very first time along with celebrity dog trainer "Farmer Dave" Graham.

The annual event saw Dinky the Chihuahua take out the 'Cutest Pet Competition' for 2015 and a number of pets attend the event with their owners, including not-so-common pets such as fish, rats and even cockroaches!

You can catch the Silver Pet Prints Pet Expo again this year on Saturday 5 November to Sunday 6 November 2016 at Claremont Showground, Perth.

Visit [perthpetexpo.com.au](http://perthpetexpo.com.au) for exhibitor and sponsorship enquiries.





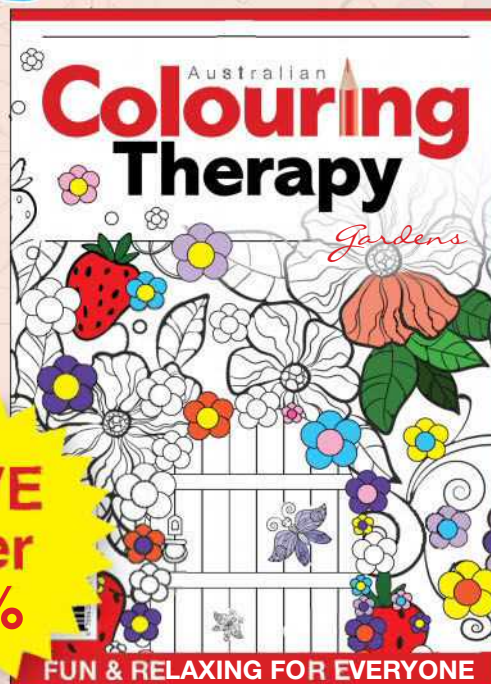
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# Shetland Sheepdog

The Shetland Sheepdog – hardworking, affectionate and above all, loyal!

**T**he Shetland Sheepdog, or “Sheltie” as it is affectionately known, originated from the Shetland Islands (Scotland) where the breed was used by crofters as a sheepdog and guardian around the farm. The Sheltie is a small, long-haired working dog of great beauty. Besides being active, hard-working and always willing and eager to please, Shelties show great affection and loyalty towards their owner. We spoke to Megan Mathers, Publicity Officer and Assistant Secretary of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Vic Inc Committee, who provided us with the following insightful information on the breed.

For those looking for an excellent companion dog that is fun-loving, beautiful and adores spending time with the family, then the Shetland Sheepdog is the ideal breed for you. Once settled into a new home, a Sheltie puppy is quick to consider itself a member of the family and will be quite happy to follow its owners around all day.

Shelties are a highly intelligent breed and are very responsive to training. With this intelligence comes the need to occupy their minds. They like to be kept busy, so having plenty of quality time with their owners, toys to play with and appropriate objects to

chew are a must. Few Shelties are used today for their original purpose as sheepdogs, but people who have worked them vouch for their great stamina and instinctive ability to herd, capable of commanding cattle and sheep. With this herding instinct comes a great love to chase things.

Many Shelties excel in dog activities such as the show ring and are frequently seen taking top honours in both overseas and Australian shows. Shelties have also been placed amongst the best for agility, obedience, tracking, and flyball. Shelties can also be seen competing in dances with dogs.





# Shetland Sheepdog

In a recent survey of canine intelligence, the Sheltie was ranked sixth out of all breeds.

Shelties are great watch dogs, and will alert their owners of visitors or unusual occurrences. They are also smart enough to be trained not to bark unnecessarily. Shelties can live happily with the family cat plus will get along with most other dogs, but like most dogs, the earlier the Sheltie is introduced to other pets and dogs, the better.

## History of the Shetland Sheepdog

Originating in the Shetland Islands (Scotland) after being around for many years, the Shetland Sheepdog was formally recognised in 1909 by the English Kennel Club.

The actual mix of what went into developing this breed is not fully known and still debated today. It is thought that the original Shetland herding dogs were a combination of dogs from fishing fleets, some Icelandic and Greenland Yakki type (now extinct) combined with existing island type Rough Collie and Border Collie.



## Fact file

**Size:** Shelties are generally considered small to medium in size. According to the Breed Standard, the ideal size for a male is 37 cm and for females 35.5 cm. The average weight is between 6-10kgs.

**Coat type:** Shelties have a double coat, which means that they have two layers of fur that make up their coat. The outer coat is made up of long hair, harsh textured and straight. The undercoat is soft, short and close to the skin.

**Colour:** Shelties come in three main colours: Sable, Tricolour and Blue merle. Sables can range from light gold to dark mahogany. Tricolours are black, white and tan. Blue merles are clear silvery blue, splashed and marbled with black, plus rich tan markings and white.

**Lifespan:** Generally, the lifespan of a Sheltie is 12-15 years.

**Suitability:** Shetland Sheepdogs make equally great pets for people with a quiet lifestyle or those perhaps interested in dog sports. Shelties don't demand much space and are wonderful watchdogs. Almost anyone will benefit from owning a Shetland Sheepdog.







The Sheltie became a multi-purpose breed, able to protect the small farms or 'crofts' whilst also showing great skill as a working dog amongst stock. The island's miniature cattle, small sheep and Shetland Ponies were all herded by these equally small sheepdogs.

By the end of the 19th century, some of the Islanders noticed that the original breed was vanishing. There were two different breeding goals occurring. Some residents had found that they could make money by selling small, fluffy mix bred dogs to wealthy travellers. They crossed their early Shelties with Pomeranians, Papillions, Corgis and possibly Scottish Terriers, to achieve even smaller dogs. At the same time, crosses with Collies began to be made by another group of islanders in an effort to recover the original type.

The early pictures show a small, fairly long-haired dog, with a head not unlike a Border Collie and some have been described as Pomeranian-like because of their rounded skulls, deep stop and short muzzles. Other names that had been used to refer to the Sheltie include Lilliputian Collie, Toonie Dog, Peerie Dog, Fairy Dog and Miniature Collie.

### Caring for a Shetland Sheepdog

#### General maintenance

Grooming – The Shelties coat usually sheds twice a year, with males generally shedding less than females. It is not necessary to shave this breed. It should be noted that Shelties shed in clumps, which can be pulled or brushed out of the main coat, rather than individual hair. This makes them easier to groom and clean compared to many smooth-haired dogs, which leave loose fur in their surroundings. In order to keep the Sheltie's long, coarse coat in good condition, a regular commitment to grooming is required, although this grooming is relatively easy and the coarse body coat is resistant to knots. A weekly brush to remove dead hair should be enough, although some owners enjoy brushing their Sheltie daily. Trimming of nails and feet hair can occur fortnightly or more often if needed. A bath and blow dry every month or as often as needed will keep the skin and coat clean and healthy. A good quality nylon/bristle or a pin brush should be used to brush the coat. The coat should be dampened first with a light spray of water. The hair is brushed in sections with brush strokes in

the same direction as the hair grows. When grooming, pay particular attention to the hair behind the ears, as this hair can knot and use a fine wire tooth comb to attend to this area regularly. Wispy bits of hair around the ears can be lightly trimmed to give a neater look. The hair underneath the paws and around the foot also needs trimming to neaten and maintain an oval appearance.

Feeding – Generally the breed is not a fussy eater, however they require a good quality and easily digestible diet. As with any breed of dog, the Sheltie can become overweight if overfed or under-exercised, so their weight should be monitored regularly.

Exercise – Although the Sheltie was originally bred for hard work, they can cope living in a small yard. Regular exercise including a moderate run or walk is recommended but exhausting treks are not necessary. Overheating during the hotter months is only a problem if the dog is over-exerted. Plenty of shade and cold fresh water should always be made available. Additionally, Shelties will appreciate an air conditioned room on hot days. As much as Shelties enjoy exercise, they also love their rest time.



## Contacts

The Shetland Sheepdog clubs will be able to direct you to breeders who currently have puppies or adults for sale, and also if there may be any Shelties available through their Sheltie Rescue.

*The Shetland Sheepdog Club of:*

- VIC: Margaret Walker,  
[marruce@bigpond.com](mailto:marruce@bigpond.com)  
(website: [www.sscv1936.com](http://www.sscv1936.com))
- NSW: Carol Wylie, [hillswick@bigpond.com](mailto:hillswick@bigpond.com)  
(website: [www.sheltieclubnsw.com](http://www.sheltieclubnsw.com))
- QLD: Ann Davies,  
[anndavies3@bigpond.com](mailto:anndavies3@bigpond.com)
- WA: Chris Luxford,  
[ambermoonknls@bigpond.com](mailto:ambermoonknls@bigpond.com)  
(website:  
[www.shetlandsheepdogclubwa.com](http://www.shetlandsheepdogclubwa.com))
- SA: Ian & Cheryl Spangler,  
[spangler@senet.com.au](mailto:spangler@senet.com.au)  
(website: [www.sheltieclubsa.com](http://www.sheltieclubsa.com))
- TAS Collie & Shetland Sheepdog Club:  
Julie Kaden, [mistryde12@bigpond.com](mailto:mistryde12@bigpond.com)



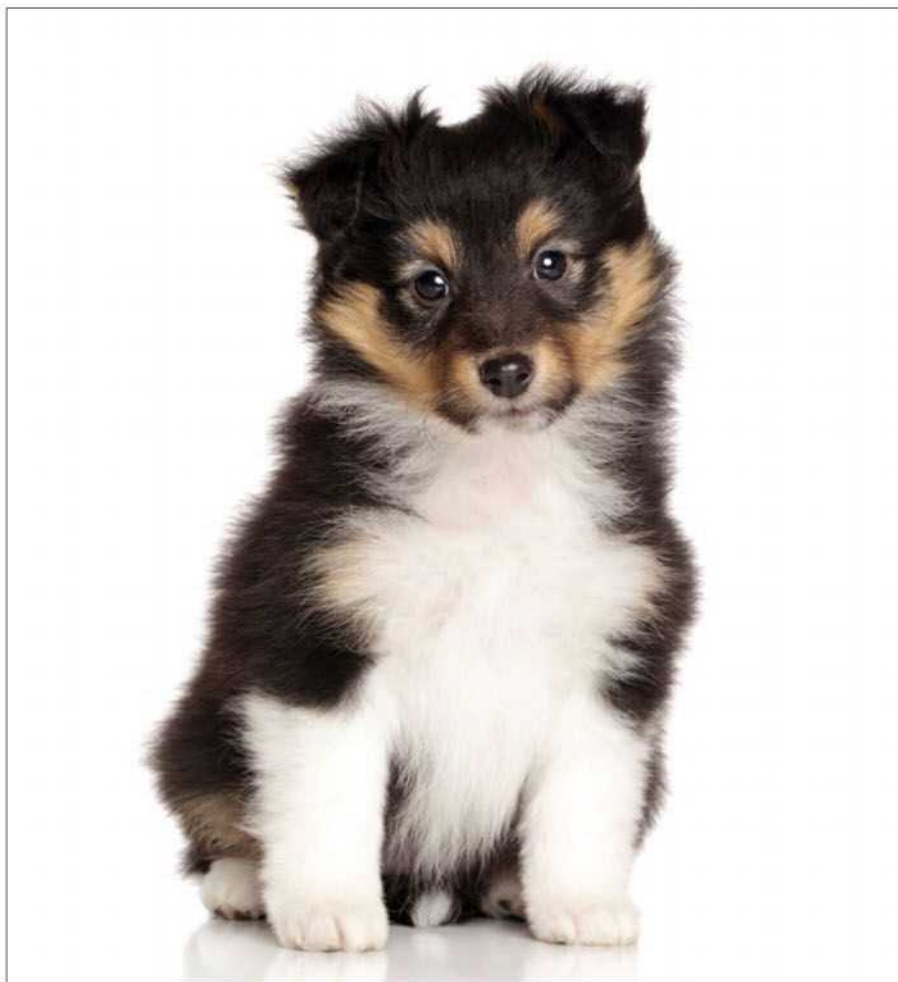
Socialising – Whilst the breed is affectionate to their owners, they can be reserved towards strangers if not encouraged to socialise. Plenty of socialisation with different people and other dogs from a young

age is recommended, along with attending a puppy training school.

### Health issues

For the most part, Shelties are athletic and





families, singles and the elderly. Shelties will give their owners unconditional love, affection and loyalty. Pros of owning a Shetland Sheepdog include:

- Gentle
- Loyal
- Intelligent
- Affectionate
- Responsive
- Playful

Their willingness to be part of their owner's lives, their beauty and their zest for life make them a pleasure to live with. They tend to sense their owner's mood and will be happy and sad alongside them. Shelties will give you some of the most wonderful moments of your life and memories you will cherish always.

Shetland Sheepdogs are perfect family pets, as they love attention and just want to be involved. The right owner for a Shetland Sheepdog is someone willing to have the dog with them as much as possible. They must be able to come into the home, not left in the backyard, as they adore being with people. They are a dog that will adapt easily to your lifestyle. Perhaps not ideal for young boisterous children, Shelties can be great with kids, but of course all dogs should be supervised around children.

#### Choosing a breeder

Anybody considering a new puppy should do their research to work out what breed will suit them best. Once a decision has been made, it is important to then choose a registered, responsible breeder. It is a good idea for potential owners to speak with a few breeders if they can, rather than just one, and they may like to see a few different litters first before making their decision.

Before selling any puppies, breeders' first need to have them checked by a vet, vaccinated, microchipped and wormed.

The new owner should receive the puppy's registration certificate (with the State controlling body for purebred dogs), vaccination card, microchip details and any health test results, as well as information from the breeder on breed characteristics, health, feeding, exercise and training. 🌟



healthy, but they can be prone to inherited diseases such as hypothyroidism, epilepsy, hip dysplasia and CEA (Collie Eye Anomaly or Choroidal Hypoplasia). All responsible breeders should have their dogs tested for CEA by a qualified veterinary ophthalmologist and the results of the test should be given to the puppy buyer. With the new developments

in testing, breeders are taking the opportunity to test for issues such as hip dysplasia and other inherited disorders.

#### Pros of owning a Shetland Sheepdog

There are many pros that come with owning a Shetland Sheepdog that make them an ideal choice of breed, especially amongst

#### To find a breeder you can contact:

Your state Shetland Sheepdog club and/or  
Your state controlling body for purebred dogs including Dogs NSW, Dogs Victoria, Dogs Queensland, Dogs SA, Dogs West and Tas Dogs.



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## Hints and tips for looking after your pet

# *Stop Your Dog From Barking*

Most dogs love to bark, whether it is to express excitement, boredom or curiosity. Certain dog breeds are prone to barking more than others, creating problems for owners who would like to keep the neighbourhood happy and their sanity intact.



© Kzenon

**B**arking is a natural instinct for dogs and not all barking behaviour should be punished. Barking that occurs when disciplining young, warning of danger, threatening intruders or barking out of curiosity is usually short-lived and specific to that occasion. On the other hand, excessive and annoying barking is a habit that needs to be curbed to improve behaviour and ensure that the barking doesn't impact your lifestyle or that of others around you.

Determine what is causing your dog to excessively bark. Are they:

- Bored?
- Frustrated?
- Hungry?
- Lonely?
- Need exercise?



© Pirita



Once you have determined one or more causes, come up with a solution that fixes that specific problem. Here are some suggestions:

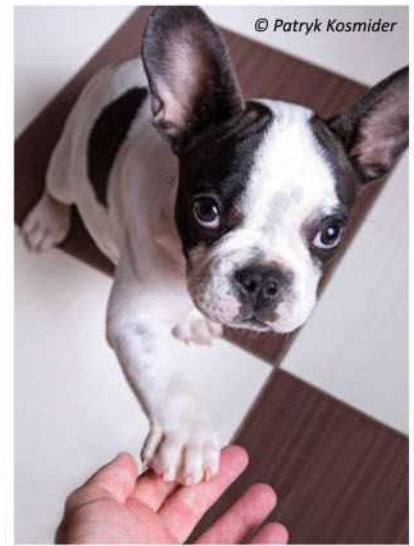
- Ensure your dog is fed the daily required amount for their size. Always have plenty of fresh water and dry food available if they are left alone for most of the day.
- Dogs are social and will greatly benefit from increased social activity and attention, such as daily walks or a quick game of fetch, if you are time limited. Be affectionate and give your dog attention in the form of play time, pats and rewards for good behaviour. This is especially important if you think your dog is barking out of loneliness.
- Have plenty of chew toys and bones on hand as an outlet for your dog to release their energy and keep their focus away from barking.
- If the issue is noise from an external source, consider leaving the radio on a low volume throughout the day. The radio is a form of company when your dog is alone and can keep them distracted from outside noises.
- Do not to shout at your dog every time they bark. It is recommended that you look them in the eyes and growl a command such

as “quiet” or “no”. Be consistent with this command so your dog understands what you are telling them to do.

- Throw something such as a chain or light metal object on the ground which will startle your dog. Do not ever throw an object at your dog. The technique is merely used to startle your dog and stop them barking.
- If problems persist, see a dog training specialist who can assist your dog with their specific needs. Training is very beneficial and will improve your dog’s confidence and self-control.
- It is essential that your dog receives positive reinforcement during the training process. Reward your dog when they are well behaved and quiet, instead of focusing solely on punishing your dog when they bark. Most importantly, do not reinforce your dog’s barking by giving into their demand for attention. If your dog does bark, use an appropriate correction that remains consistent throughout training.

Teaching your dog requires time, effort and consistency. If you find you’re struggling to control your dog’s barking after applying

relevant techniques and training, you can consider using a bark collar. The Petsafe Deluxe Citronella bark control collar is an alternative to stop consistent barking. The collar registers the vibrations of your dog’s bark (not the sound, so other dogs can’t set it off) and releases a spray of harmless citronella towards the dog’s snout. The citronella works to eradicate unwanted barking behaviour. The collar can be purchased at Petstock stores and online. RRP \$199.99 <https://www.petstock.com.au> 🐾



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# Interior Decorations For Animal Lovers

These unique and adorable decorations are sure to brighten your mood and that of those who enter your living area. Our top pick of animal interiors can be purchased from [www.hardtofind.com.au](http://www.hardtofind.com.au)

## Labrador Clock with Wagging Tail by The Labrador Company RRP \$85.00



This is the ultimate happy clock, guaranteed to make everyone smile featuring a contemporary and fun design. This clock is for all dog lovers of all ages! Your doggy clock can be placed in any room or workspace.

## Areaware Fauna Cushion – Small Border Collie in navy by Until RRP \$69.95

This adorable cushion features a black and white Border Collie and is the perfect accompaniment to any dog lover's couch!



## Chalkboard Bunny Repositionable Wall Decal by Vinyl Interior Design RRP \$35.00.

Write your notes on this fun blackboard bunny wall sticker! Chalkboard wall stickers are a fun way to decorate your kitchen, office, hallway or playroom.

**Zebra Book Dividers** by Amor Amor RRP \$24.00

These zebra book dividers are a great way to add some character to your bookcase or shelf and allows you to mark your favourite books or simply create unique subject divisions. Create the effect of roaring herds in your office or bedroom and add a welcoming surprise for guests!





### ***Pretty Boys Budgie Wall Art by Prints to Frame RRP \$45.00***

Create a colourful sanctuary of beautiful budgerigars with this three piece wall art print set.



### ***Map Cat (You Choose the Location) by Bombus RRP \$85.00***

A free-standing wooden cat featuring your choice of map location of anywhere in the world. She'll grace any bookshelf or mantelpiece and is the perfect gift for anyone who loves cats!



### ***Sam the Dog Candle by Domaine Luimere RRP \$38.00***

Brighten up your living space with this cute bulldog candle! The candle has a 30 hour burn time and is available in black and coral.



### ***Feline Fine Door Mat by Mozi Australia RRP \$39.95***

As any cat lover will attest, it's not usually the puss of the house being walked all over! Turn the tables with the Feline Fine Doormat – a charming welcome at your door!



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Email [pets@wpco.com.au](mailto:pets@wpco.com.au) and send us your inspiring living space ideas and images.***

# Book Reviews

It's always a treat to find time to relax with a good book. Here are some fabulous titles (of course they all feature animals!):

**You Can't Catch a Tiger by his Tale by Jean Bunton RRP \$20.00**

This heart-warming tale was written by three year old Sydney-sider Tiger and translated from Dog by his owner, Jean Bunton. Tiger must find his way home after finding himself trapped inside the TV, in which he is zapped to another channel every time someone pats his tummy. On his journey, Tiger meets up with his hero, the vet at Bondi Beach. He explores Africa alongside acclaimed broadcaster Sir Rufus Doberman, before joining a group of sniffer dogs on the Channel Two News. Eventually, Tiger arrives on the set of a cooking contest. Will the judge approve of his unique concoctions? And how will he ever find his

way back home? This book is an escapist romp, though at times the adventures are quite terrier-fying!

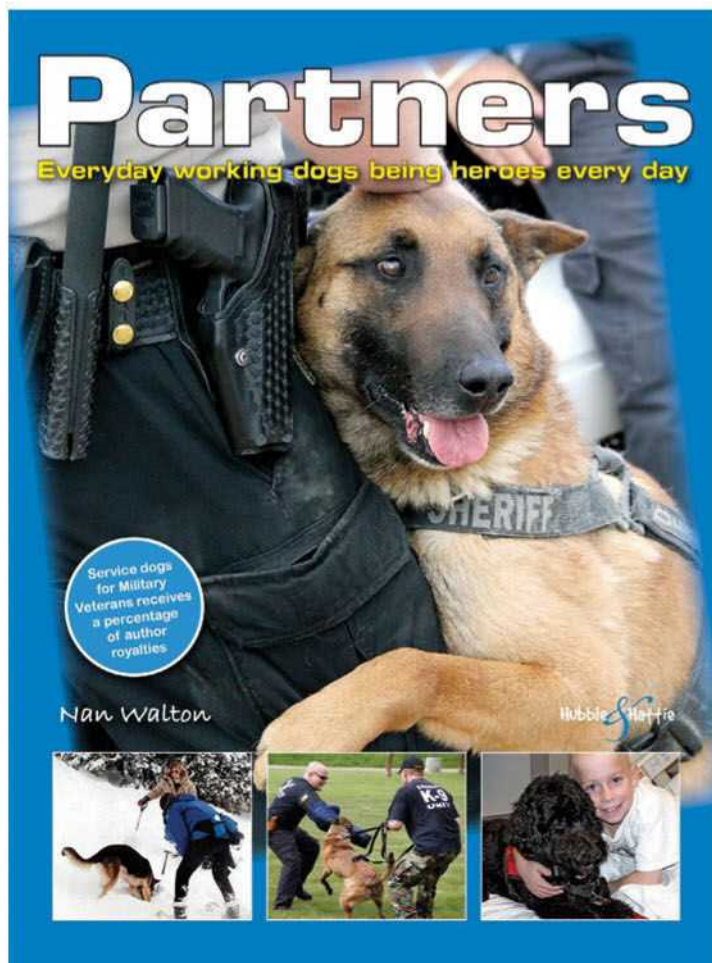
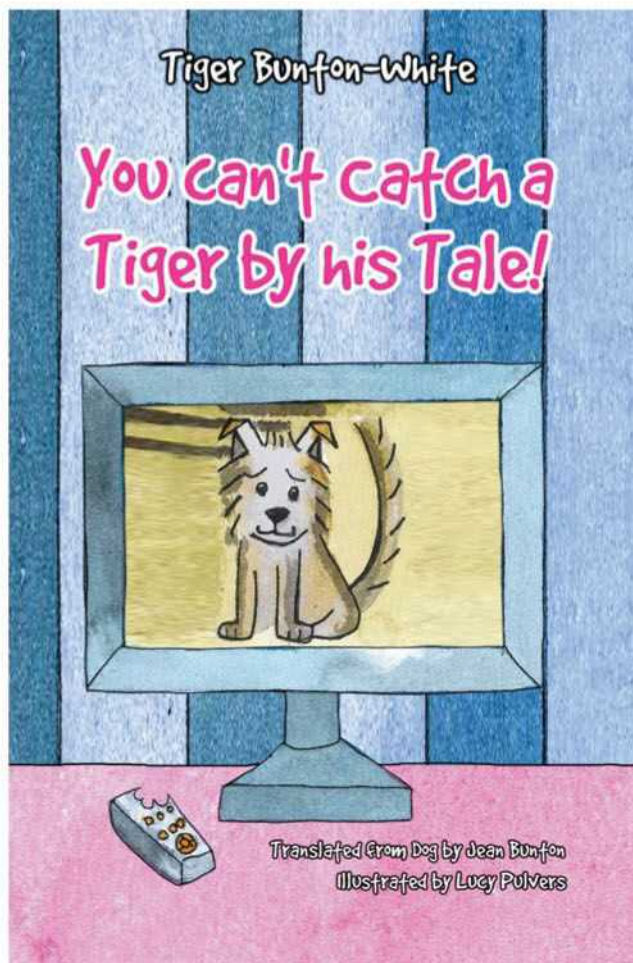
**Partners: Everyday working dogs being heroes everyday by Nan Walton RRP \$49.99**

This book celebrates the diversity of the canine contribution to our species, providing the reader with heart-warming stories of loyalty, perseverance and courage, as evidenced by examples of five disciplines: law enforcement, guide dogs, therapy dogs, scent-detection dogs and search and rescue dogs. Written by people who learned to trust their lives to the senses of a dog and highlighting true examples of working dog behaviour, the

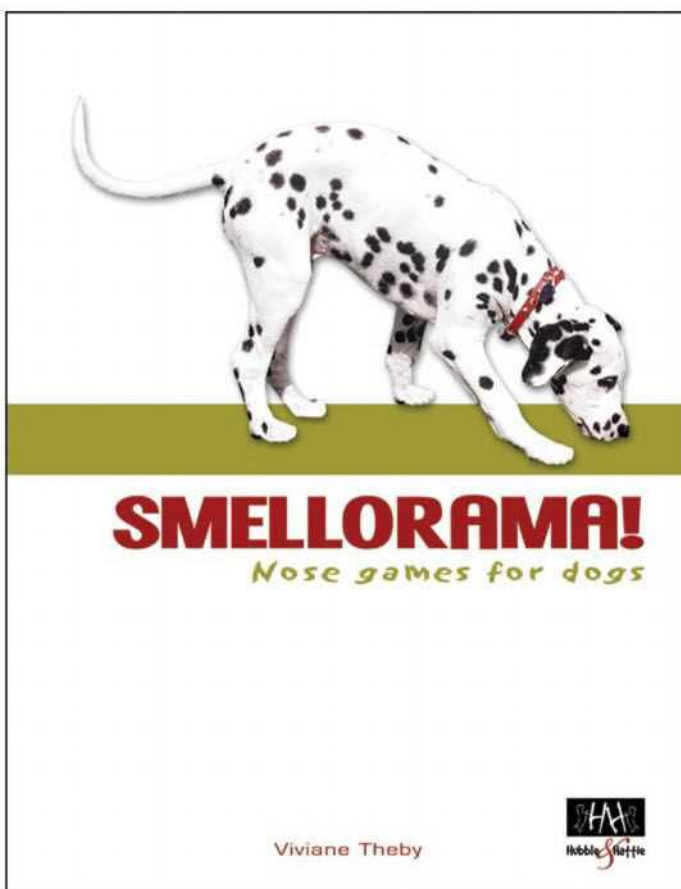
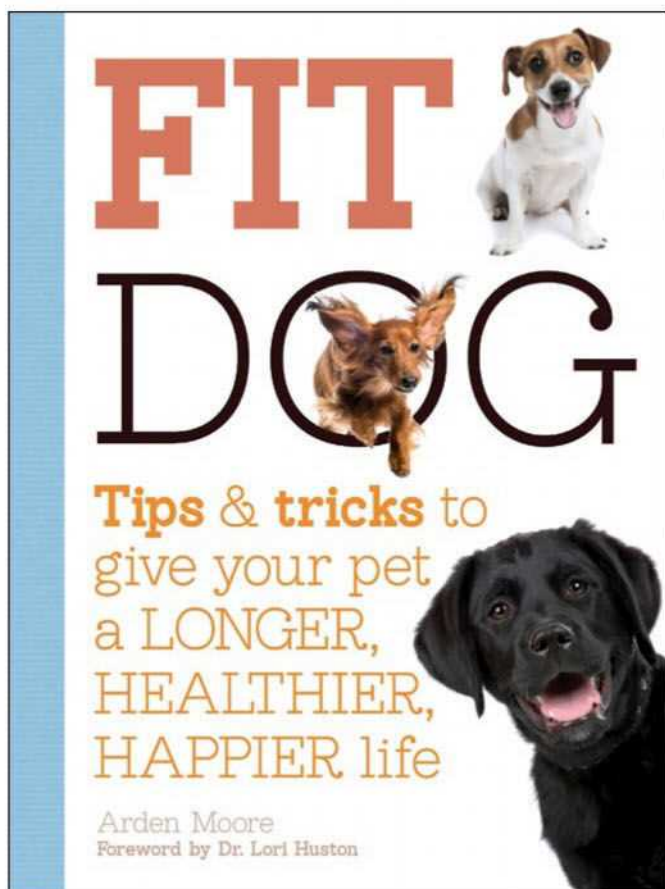
book enables all dog lovers to understand the inborn senses and instincts of their dog, which man can shape to his benefit.

**Fit Dog by Arden Moore RRP \$19.99**

Learn tips and tricks to give your dog a longer, healthier, happier life and keep your best friend around for many years to come. Fit Dog provides essential health, grooming, and exercise information with step-by-step activity and training advice for any age or breed. Learn how to teach an old—or young—dog new tricks with everything from basic commands to fun skills and agility exercises that will keep your dog mentally agile and physically active. Authored by Arden Moore, the pet safety,







behaviour and lifestyle expert known as The Pawsitive Coach, Fit Dog is the perfect gift for any dog owner.

**Smellorama: Nose games for your dog**  
by Viviane Theby RRP \$19.99

How does your dog smell? Very well, as

it happens! All dogs love to sniff out new smells and messages. Your faithful friend can be taught to find those lost car keys, tell you if your food contains minute traces of nuts, or even locate a missing person and in such a way these 'nose games' are great fun for both canine and

owner. The fun book includes details on how a dog's nose works, hide and seek games for beginners, how to tell what your dog is telling you, information on difference scents and following trails as well as trail challenges and advanced exercises. 🐾

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Email: [simon@wpco.com.au](mailto:simon@wpco.com.au)**EDITOR** Danielle RyanEmail: [pets@wpco.com.au](mailto:pets@wpco.com.au)**CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Hayley Jagger**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Tara Mullen**NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER** Cindy Francis**ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES**

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Email: [adv@wpco.com.au](mailto:adv@wpco.com.au)**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR**

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Email: [subs@wpco.com.au](mailto:subs@wpco.com.au)Website: [www.wpco.com.au](http://www.wpco.com.au)

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